

# THE LITERARY GAZETTE

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No. 1962.

LONDON, SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 1854.

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**BRITISH ASSOCIATION for the ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.**—The Next Meeting will be held at Liverpool, commencing on Sept. 29, 1854, under the Presidency of the EARL of HARRLOWBY, F.R.S.

The Reception Room will be in St. George's Hall, Liverpool. Notices of Communications intended to be read to the Association, accompanied by a statement whether the Author will be present at the Meeting, may be addressed to John Phillips, M.A., F.R.S., St. Mary's Lodge, York, or to Dr. Dickinson, F.R.S., and Dr. Inman, Local Secretaries, Liverpool.

JOHN TAYLOR, F.R.S., General Secretary,  
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## REVIEWS.

*Firmilian; or, the Student of Badajoz. A Spasmodic Tragedy.* By T. Percy Jones. Blackwood.

THE admirers of the 'Festus' and 'Balder' school of poetry will be sorely puzzled what to make of this book. The sense of humour not being a quality in which they abound, they will be unable to form even a surmise of the delicate sarcasm which runs through both story and style; while the dash of the imagery, and the brilliancy and vigour of the versification, will make them feel the presence of a poetic power which even these complacent gentlemen must envy. There are passages mystical enough for Bailey or Dobell, sufficiently full-flavoured for Alexander Smith. It is true that Percy Jones does not rise to the audacious profanity of any of these gentlemen, and his voluptuousness is covered with a blushing reserve to which the poets of the new school rise superior. He has a story, moreover, coherent and well developed—an element of attraction which your spasmodic hard despises; and you can generally understand what he would be at—a result which the latter worthy takes good care the acutest of his readers shall never attain. His metaphors, too, are generally to the purpose, and stick to the memory; and they do not explode over his page like a Vauxhall firework, bewildering the eye with a momentary glare, and then expiring in vacancy. It is no wonder, then, that when 'Firmilian' was reviewed in 'Blackwood' some months ago, not a few critics of the press took the part of the poet against the reviewer, never suspecting the identity of both, and maintained the poetry to be fine poetry, and the critic to be a dunce. Now that we have the complete drama before us, it is quite delightful to see that the hoax is still as successful as before, and that Percy Jones's work has been dealt with by several critics as a serious effort in the spasmodic style. Others, who have a vague idea that a satire is meant, have fallen foul of it, as an unfair attack upon their pet bards, more especially Alexander Smith. But it is clear that Dobell's 'Balder,' and not Smith's 'Drama of Life,' is chiefly aimed at; and the ultimate verdict on the book will no doubt be, that it is parody of the first class, imitating and rivaling the thing parodied in its best points, and showing up its absurdities with a pungency of humour, which a knowledge of the prototype will heighten, but is not essential to enable the reader to appreciate.

The source of action in 'Balder,' if there be any action at all in that monstrous monologue, is the desire of the hero to make acquaintance with Death, vicariously, in order that he may work up his own sense of bereavement into that epic, which, by its magnificence, is to put an extinguisher on all future essays in that dreary species of production. Finding the death of his child does not sufficiently stimulate the poetic *astro*, 'Balder' extinguishes the lamentations of his distracted wife by the simple process of suffocation, or rather, we are led to infer as much, for it would never do for a poet of the high style to tell anything clearly. 'Balder,' Part 2, when it appears—which may Apollo long avert!—will no doubt inform the expectant world of the results. What these may be, we can wait patiently to learn; but Percy Jones, whose brevity is not his least merit, comes to the

point, and gives us the issue of his hero's aspirations and practices in a natural and forcible manner. He, like 'Balder,' has set himself a great task—'Cain: a Tragedy;' but not being able to paint the first fratricide's pangs until a preliminary murder has given him a notion of remorse, he starts on a career of crime with the purest poetical motives, but with results not more satisfactory to the publishing trade than 'Balder.' However, it is best to let 'Firmilian' speak for himself. The drama opens in his study—all spasmodic dramas do—where the practical turn of his mind is revealed in certain forcible conclusions as to the mercenary character of the three learned professions:—

"The lawyer speaks no word without a fee—  
The priest demands his tithes, and will not sing  
A gratis mass to help his brother's soul.  
The purgatorial key is made of gold:  
None else will fit the wards;—and for the doctor,  
The good kind man who lingers by your couch,  
Compounds your pills and potions, feels your pulse,  
And takes especial notice of your tongue;  
If you allow him once to leave the room,  
Without the proper greasing of his palms,  
Look out for Azrael!"

This regular and somewhat prosaic utilising of the learning of the schools is, of course, quite beneath a genius like Firmilian's. With a fine frenzy and mighty diction, not unlike old Marlowe's, he thus proclaims his mission:—

"And shall I then take Celsus for my guide,  
Confound my brain with dull Justinian's tomes,  
Or stir the dust that lies o'er Augustine?  
Not I, in faith! I've leaped into the air,  
And clove my way through ether, like a bird  
That flits beneath the glimpses of the moon,  
Right eastward, till I lighted at the foot  
Of holy Helicon, and drank my fill  
At the clear spout of Azaizpe's stream;  
I've rolled my limbs in ecstasy along  
The self-same turf on which old Homer lay,  
That night he dreamed of Helen and of Troy:  
And I have heard, at midnight, the sweet strains  
Come quivering from the hill-top, where, enshrined  
In the rich foldings of a silver cloud,  
The Muses sang Apollo into sleep.  
Then came the voice of universal Pan,  
The dread earth-whisper, booming in mine ear—  
'Rise up, Firmilian—rise in might!' it said,  
'Great youth, baptised to song! Be it thy task,  
Out of the jarring discords of the world,  
To recreate stupendous harmonies  
More grand in diapason than the roll  
Among the mountains of the thunder-psalm!  
Be thou no slave of passion. Let not love,  
Pity, remorse, nor any other thrill  
That sways the actions of ungodly men,  
Affect thy course. Live for thyself alone.  
Let appetite thy ready handmaid be,  
And pluck all fruitage from the tree of life,  
Be it forbidden! If thy course be love,  
Between thee and the purpose of thy bent,  
Launch thou the arrow from the string of might  
Right to the bosom of the impious wretch,  
And let it quiver there! Be great in guilt!  
If, like Balaam, thou canst rack the heart,  
Spare it no pang. So shalt thou be prepared  
To make thy song a tempest, and to shake  
The earth to its foundation—Go thy way!  
I woke, and found myself in Badajoz.  
But from that day, with frantic might, I've striven  
To give due utterance to the awful shrieks  
Of him who first imbued his hand in gore—  
To paint the mental spasms that tortured Cain!  
How have I done it? Feebly. What we write  
Must be the reflex of the thing we know;  
For who can learn the morning, if his eyes  
Have never looked upon Aurora's face?  
Or who describe the cadence of the sea,  
Whose ears were never open to the waves  
Or the shrill winding of the Triton's horn?  
What do I know as yet of homicide?  
Nothing. Fool—fool! to lose thy precious time  
In dreaming of what may be, when an act  
Easy to plan, and easier to effect,  
Can teach thee everything! What—craven mind—  
Shrink'st thou from doing, for a noble aim,  
What, every hour, some villain, wretch, or slave  
Dares for a purse of gold? It is resolved—  
I'll ope the lattice of some mortal cage,  
And let the soul go free!"

A draught of wine lends additional vigour to this resolution:—

"But the victim? That  
Requires a pause of thought. I must begin  
With some one dear to me, or else the deed  
Would lose its flavour and its poignancy."

His first thought is of "the tender, blushing, yielding Lillian":—

"What if I saved  
Her young existence from all future throes,  
And laid her pallid on an early bier?  
Why, that were mercy both to her and me,  
Not ruthless sacrifice. And, more than this,  
She hath an uncle an Inquisitor,  
Who might be tempted to make curious quest  
About the final ailments of his niece.  
Therefore, dear Lillian, live! I harm thee not."

The mixture of tenderness and discretion here is exquisite. Mariana, "the blooming mistress of the moated grange," next occurs to him, but he puts her aside with the reflection that they are not yet married:—

"It will be time enough to think of her  
After her lands are mine; therefore, my own,  
My sweet affianced, sleep thou on in peace."

Indiana—"that full-blown beauty of Abas-min blood, whose orient charms are madness," then crosses his fancy, but she is too recent an accession to his erotic triumphs to be disposed of just at present. But then—

"There's Haverillo, mine especial friend,  
A better creature never created a verse  
By dint of fingers—anning; yet he's deemed  
A proper poet by the gaping fools  
Who know not me!"

Just as we might imagine a Balder to speak of a Rogers. Nor does the analogy hold as to relative poetical merits only. Haverillo is rich and bounteous—has lent liberally to the less thrifty bard, whose acknowledgments, not available in the market, he holds within his desk—an easy creditor withal:—

"He asks  
No instant payment for his fond advance,  
Nor yet is clamorous for the usufruct.  
How if, he being dead, some sordid slave,  
Brother or cousin, who might heir his wealth,  
Should chance to stumble on those bonds of mine,  
And sue me for the debt? That were enough  
To break the wanton wings of Pegasus,  
And bind him to a stall!"

Besides, the sponge is not yet thoroughly squeezed, so "let him live and thrive!" At this point Firmilian's meditations settle on three of his friends,—to wit, Garcia Perez, "who ever stood above him in the schools;" Alphonso d'Aguiar, whose Castilian *hauteur* has probably on some occasion wounded our hero's sensitive spirit; and Alonzo Olivarez, who has the merit of being so near of kin to Mariana, Firmilian's affianced, that "his wealth accrues solely to her":—

"I love him like a brother.  
Be these my choice, I sup with them to-morrow."

Having settled this point, the means of death are the next consideration, and the aid of Raymond Lully, that "quaint discourses upon pharmacy," is invoked in the same exquisite vein of humour:—

"Did not Lucretia—not the frigid dame  
Who discomfited young Tarquin in her tower,  
But the complete and liberal Borzias—  
Consult thy pages for a sedative?"

The specific is found—tasteless and not to be detected, and Firmilian's mind is free to lose itself in an apostrophe to the moon:—

"That in its perfect and perennial course,  
Wanders at will across the fields of heaven!"

The number and variety of Firmilian's amours is in strict consonance with the ethics of the spasmodic school. These gentlemen, who are generally in the last stage of dyspepsia—feeble vegetarians, scarcely insurable at any premium, are as amorous on paper as a score of satyrs. As the good Haverillo says:—

"Nine muses waited at Apollo's beck—  
Our modern poets are more amorous,  
And far exceed the stint of Solomon,  
But 'tis mere fancy; inspiration all."

We do not wonder, however, to find the Mariana of our poet somewhat uneasy about the constancy of a gentleman of such compre-



hensive tastes, and seeking, in the next scene, some assurance from Haverillo to dispel her fears. Their colloquy is interrupted by the entrance of Firmilian, to announce the death of his old uncle, the Dean of Salamanca, leaving to him all the worldly goods—

"Of that quiescent pillar of the church."

The inheritance, which, of course, is a mere creation of fancy, comes most opportunely to the poet—

"For his last ducat slumbers in his purse,  
Without a coin to keep it company."

This dexterous hint opens the purse-strings of his friend, to whose offer of eighty ducats he yields with the reluctance and flow of fine sentiment characteristic of his tribe:—

"I'd rather dash  
My hand, like Scævola, into the flame,  
Than vex my Haverillo! Oh dear heaven,  
If those who rail at human nature knew  
How many kindly deeds each hour brings forth—  
How man by man is cherished and sustained—  
They'd leave their carping. I will take your offer."

That dear Haverillo, all admiration for his friend, presses him to explain the change from gaiety to gloom which has of late come over him, and makes him—

"Look like one that wrestles with a thought,  
And cannot fling it down."

To his inquiries after the intended tragedy on Cain, Firmilian replies that it is abandoned, as too gloomy for his handling, and that henceforth he means to take his place—

"With the large-hearted men who love their kind,  
(Whereof there seems a vast abundance now),  
And follow your example."

Haverillo, in delight, asks if he will hear a little thing, in the manner of Horace—

"I wrote the other day, on love and wine,"

but Firmilian, who has no relish for the commonsense school, denies his generous ally this poor privilege of friendship, with a mixture of firmness and enthusiasm altogether admirable:—

"I would not listen to Apollo's lute  
With greater rapture. But my time is brief."

Haverillo retires, and a charming dialogue ensues between Firmilian and Mariana, in which he succeeds in completely reassuring her, by the fluent falsehood and indignant assumption of injured innocence for which a gentleman of so strong a poetical temperament is never at a loss. The next scene shows us Firmilian in hot controversy with his friends, Garcia Perez, D'Aguilar, and Olivarez, on the subject of female beauty, in which Firmilian's catholic admiration of the sex breaks forth with startling fervour. The episode in Alexander Smith's 'Drama of Life,' of the lady's dalliance with her 'Cub of Ind,' is here satirized with great skill, and as a specimen of vigorous versification the passage is equal to anything in our recent literature. The under-vein of coarseness is inevitable, and in the circumstances legitimate, which in the prototype it is not:—

"I knew a poet once; and he was young,  
And intermingled with such fierce desires  
As made pale Eros veil his face with grief,  
And caused his lustier brother to rejoice.  
He was as amorous as a crocodile  
In the spring season, when the Memphian bank,  
Receiving substance from the glaring sun,  
Resolves itself from mud into a shore.  
And—as the scaly creature wallowing there,  
In its hot fits of passion, belches forth  
The steam from out its nostrils, half in love,  
And half in grim defiance of its kind;  
Trusting that either, from the reedy fen,  
Some reptile-virgin coyly may appear,  
Or that the hoary Sultan of the Nile  
May make tremendous challenge with his jaws,  
And, like Mark Anthony, assert his right  
To all the Cleopatras of the ooze—  
So fared it with the poet that I knew.

He had a soul beyond the vulgar reach,  
Sun-ripened, swarthy. He was not the fool

To pluck the feeble lily from its shade  
When the black hyacinth stood in fragrance by.  
The lady of his love was dusk as Ind,  
Her lips as piteous as the Sphinx's are,  
And her short hair crisp with Numidian curl.  
She was a negress. You have heard the strains  
That Dante, Petrarch, and such piling fools  
As loved the daughters of cold Japhet's race,  
Have lavished lily on their icicles;  
As snow meets snow, so their unhappy fall  
Fell chill and barren on a pulseless heart.  
But, would you know what noontide ardour is,  
Or in what mood the lion, in the waste,  
All fever-maddened, and intent on cubs,  
At the oasis waits the lioness—  
That shall you gather from the fiery song  
Which that young poet framed, before he dared  
Invade the vastness of his lady's lips."

Disgusted with this loathsomely tone of sensualism, D'Aguilar strikes Firmilian, and a brawl ensues, which, however, is quieted upon an arrangement being made for a duel between them next morning. But the three friends are not destined to catch cold from the raw morning air. Firmilian has been the purveyor for their revel, and in some flasks of Ildefonso—a vintage new to the wine trade—has proved the efficacy of Raymond Lully's anodyne mixture. Though his courage, therefore, is of Bob Acres' kind, he comes upon the ground next morning with none of that fire-eater's qualms. On the contrary, when we next see him, which is in the cathedral cloisters, his sole disquietude is to find that he is as much a stranger to remorse as before he drugged the goblets of his friends. But a sensation so valuable for poetical purposes, he reflects, is not perhaps to be so cheaply bought, and—

"The subtle alchemist,  
Whose aim is the elixir, or that stone,  
The touch whereof makes base metals gold,  
Must needs endure much failure, ere he finds  
The grand Arcanum. So is it with me.  
I have but shot an idle bolt away,  
And need not seek it farther."

At this point his attention is arrested by a dialogue between a graduate, in whom the Oxford *Malleus maleficorum* is typified, and a priest, in which the former denounces the doctrines and the architecture of the Established Church with Ruskin-like vehemence, retiring with a prophecy—

"That o'er the stones wherein you place your pride,  
Annihilation waves her dusky wing."

The suggestion is not lost on Firmilian, who indicates to the priest the probability of his young and enthusiastic friend realizing his own prophecy. This is to screen himself from the suspicion of a majestic plan of destruction which he immediately puts into effect. As the graduate spoke, says Firmilian,—

"Methought I saw the solid vaults give way,  
And the entire cathedral rise in air,  
As if it leaped from Pandemonium's jaws."

Accordingly he blows up the cathedral, with half the population of Badajoz in the midst of their devotions, by means of—

"Some twenty barrels of the dusky grain,  
The secret of whose framing in an hour  
Of diabolic jollity and mirth,  
Old Roger Bacon wormed from Beelzebub."

Still 'Cain' does not advance. Remorse will not take hold upon Firmilian. On the contrary, he feels elated by the splendour of the spectacle presented by—

"Pillars and altar, organ loft and screen,  
With a singed swarm of mortals intermixed,  
Whirling in anguish to the shuddering stars."

He feels he has been "too coarse and general in this business," and that in sending to the moon such a herd of—

"Uninspired dullards, unpoetic slaves,  
The rag and tag and bobtail of mankind,"

he has committed no heavier sin than if he had merely smoked a hive of humble-bees. All the qualities of a victim sufficiently select

to give him a chance of the much-coveted sensation of remorse seem, however, to meet in his friend Haverillo, for whom, accordingly, we now find him waiting at the summit of the pillar of St. Simeon Stylites. A dialogue ensues in the best spasmodic style, Firmilian metaphorical and selfish, Haverillo simple and generous, as usual. In vain the latter pleads for life. As a last sop to Cerberus, he offers his friend the proceeds of a new edition of his poems. This last indignity, so cutting from a bard with a copyright of value to the *amour propre* of one whose poems the public will not buy, is fatal, and Firmilian hurls his lyrical friend from the summit of the column. By a fine stroke of poetic justice the ill-starred Haverillo crushes in his fall "*Apollodorus, a critic*," editor, we presume, of the 'Badajoz Examiner,' as that worthy is sending aloft to heaven the following invocation:—

"Pythian Apollo!  
Hear me, O hear! Towards the firmament  
I gaze with longing eyes; and, in the name  
Of millions thirsting for poetic draughts,  
I do beseech thee send a poet down!  
Let him descend, e'en as a meteor falls,  
Rushing at noonday.  
(He is crushed by the fall of the body of Haverillo.)"

At last we might have expected to find Firmilian worked up into the poetic paroxysm required for his antediluvian tragedy. But no; instead of remorse he feels only triumph, and even Haverillo's exit merely begets the wish that his other creditors could be disposed of in a like summary fashion. At last he begins to surmise that it is all up with "the firstling of his soul—his tragedy," and that his various murders have gone for nothing. Those who admire 'Baldur' must recognise a kindred spirit in the following soliloquy:—

"Alas! I fear  
I have mista'en my bent! What's Cain to me,  
Or I to Cain? I cannot realize  
His wild sensations—it were madness, then,  
For me to persevere. Some other bard  
With weaker nerves and fainter heart than mine  
Must gird him to the task. 'Tis not for me  
To shrine that page of history in song,  
And utter such tremendous cadences,  
That the mere babe who hears them at the breast,  
Sans comprehension, or the power of thought,  
Shall be an idiot to its dying hour!  
I deemed my verse would make pale Heate's orb  
Grow wan and dark; and into ashes change  
The radiant star-dust of the milky-way.  
I deemed that pestilence, disease, and death,  
Would follow every strophe—for the power  
Of a true poet, prophet as he is,  
Should rack creation!"

The question now arises, into what new channel shall Firmilian pour the sprightly runnings of his fancy. A theme of magic is canvassed and discarded, for a grand erotic poem, richer "than ever yet was heard in praise of love," *apropos* of which he delivers a commentary upon our classical teaching, so pithy, and of such important practical bearing, that we must find room for it:—

"Let the cold moralists say what they will,  
I'll set their practice boldly 'gainst my verse,  
And so convict them of hypocrisy.  
What text-books read their children at the schools?  
Derive they Latin from a hymnal source,  
Or from the works of rigid anchorites?  
Not so! That hog of Epicurean's sty,  
The sensuous Horace, ushers them along  
To rancid Ovid. He prepares the way  
For loose Catullus, whose voluptuous strain  
Is soon dismissed for coarser Juvenal.  
Take we the other language—Is there much  
Of moral fervour or devout respect  
That can be gleaned from old Anacreon's lays,  
Or Sappho's burning starts? What pious lore  
Can the alchemy of the sage extract  
From the rank filth of Aristophanes?  
Is Lucian holy reading? And, if not,  
Why, in the name of the old gardens-god,  
Persist they in their system? Pure indeed  
Must be the minds of those compelled to wade  
Through all the dunghills of antiquity,  
If they escape without some lasting stain.  
What do our moralists? To make things clear  
Which otherwise might 'scape the youthful senses,  
They write Pantheons—wherein you may read,

In most exact and undisguised detail,  
The loves of Jove with all his relatives,  
Besides some less conspicuous amours  
With Danaë, Europa, and the like.  
What merrier jests can move the schoolboy's spleen,  
Than the rich tale of Vulcan and of Mars;  
Or of Apollo, when, in hot pursuit  
Of Daphne, 'stead of tresses in his hand,  
He found a garland of the laurel leaves?  
Well-thumbed, be sure, the precious pages are  
That tell of Venus and of Mercury!  
And shall the men, who do not shrink to teach  
Such saving doctrine to their tender sons,  
Accuse me if I shine the same in verse,  
And with most sweet seductive harmony  
Proclaim the reign of Love o'er all the world?"

But the Nemesis of our poet is at hand. The Inquisition is on his traces, and the three ladies of his love, Lilian, Mariana, and Indiana, objecting to the Mormonite character of his domestic arrangements, direct the pursuit. The latter he sends to their graves in his own conclusive way. The former, however, are not so easily dealt with, and we find our tragic bard, in the last scene, lost in mist upon a barren moor, to which he has fled, and where he is lured by *ignes fatui*, into a pond in an old quarry, into which, some years before, he had himself misled an old blind beggar, whose prayer for alms had broken the chain of his poetic ruminations.

How this is worked out we must leave the lovers of genuine parody to ascertain for themselves. Neither can we dwell upon any of the various episodes in which some of the leading absurdities of the day are cleverly glanced at. Humour of a kind most rare at all times, and especially in the present day, runs through every page, and passages of true poetry and delicious versification prevent the continual play of sarcasm from becoming tedious. We can scarcely hope that this fine burlesque will operate a cure upon the poetasters of the spasmodic school—*tribus insanabilibus Anticyris*; but it will open the eyes of many of their admirers, by showing them how easy it is for a man of real poetic power to throw off, in sport, pages of verse, sonorous and sparkling beyond that of their worshipped favourites, simply by ignoring the fetters of nature and common sense, and dashing headlong on his Pegasus through the wilderness of fancy. Professor Aytoun, for we believe there is no doubt he is the veritable Percy Jones, has accepted battle with our modern Nat. Lees, on their own ground and with their own weapons, and he has beaten them.

*Islamism: its Rise and Progress; or, the Present and Past Condition of the Turks.* By F. A. Neale, Author of 'Eight Years in Syria.' Madden.

*History of the Byzantine and Greek Empires from MLVII. to MCCCCLIII.* By George Finlay. Vol. II. Blackwood and Sons. [Final Notice.]

MR. NEALE'S book does not profess to be more than a useful compilation, but it has great merit as a concise and connected history of Islamism from the earliest times down to the present day. Brief sketches are given of the exploits and reigns of the Saracen caliphs in the East, in Africa, and in Spain, with notices of the chief events of Mohammedan history in various countries, before and after the foundation of the Ottoman empire. The narrative is brought down to the reign of the present Sultan, and the concluding chapters contain notices of the war now carrying on in the East. Mr. Neale's volumes may therefore be viewed as prepared to meet the desire for information

about a country and people in whom the people of Western Europe are now forced to take unusual interest. Some portions of the history of Mohammedan nations are familiarly known to all who possess ordinary education, but we do not know any work which presents in the same compass a connected view of the general history of Islamism. Some parts of the narrative are necessarily very brief, but the facts are recorded with sufficient detail to sustain the continuity of the record of events. Thus the account of the capture of Constantinople by Mahmoud II. is introduced by the following brief notice of the last dynasty of the Greek empire, that of Michael Palæologus and his successors:—

"For fifty-seven years did Constantinople remain in the hands of the Franks; when in 1261 it was recaptured by the Greeks under the Emperor Michael Palæologus; but the successors of this potentate grievously lacked military skill or spirit. Unapt to govern, enslaved by superstition, and mentally and physically reduced by licentiousness, the sceptre trembled in their hands. Under their sway the empire became more and more helpless. This was not unnoticed by those fiery enthusiasts the Turkish princes, who had announced themselves as the defenders of the Mahomedan faith, and the propagators of the sword's point of the doctrines enunciated by the Koran. The capture of Gallipoli, as we have already seen, had given the race of Othman a footing in Europe; while the defeat of the Christians by Bajazet had inspired them with irrepressible ardour for the conquest of Constantinople; and, if practicable, of the whole of Europe. This doom, was, as we have further seen, averted for a time by the appearance of Timur-Bey-Tamerlane; who on the invitation of the Asiatic princes had come to oppose the Ottoman forces, and who had led the vanquished Bajazet to captivity and death. But Mahomed had been reinstated in his power. Amurath the Second had subdued the greatest part of the Byzantine Empire; and defeated the Poles and the Hungarians at the great battle of Varna. Mahomed the Second had ascended the throne; and the doomed hour for the fall of Constantinople was then close at hand."

The period here briefly alluded to is described at great length by Mr. Finlay in his learned and laborious work, of the subjects of which we have given a full account. We return to it only to quote part of his description of the siege and capture of the city, the whole of which is written with much spirit.

"The first division of the Othoman army moved from Adrianople in the month of February 1453. In the meantime a numerous corps of pioneers worked constantly at the road in order to prepare it for the passage of the long train of artillery and baggage waggons. Temporary bridges, capable of being taken to pieces, were erected by the engineers over every ravine and water-course, and the materials for the siege advanced steadily, though slowly, to their destination. The extreme difficulty of moving the monster cannon with its immense balls retarded the sultan's progress, and it was the beginning of April before the whole battering-train reached Constantinople, though the distance from Adrianople is barely a hundred miles. The division of the army under Karadjä Pasha had already reduced Mesembria, Anchialos, Bizya, and the castle of St. Stephanos. Selymbria alone defended itself, and the fortifications were so strong that Mahomed ordered it to be closely blockaded, and left its fate to be determined by that of the capital.

"On the 6th of April, Sultan Mohammed II. encamped on the slope of the hill facing the quarter of Blachern, a little beyond the ground occupied by the Crusaders in 1203, and immediately ordered the construction of lines, extending from the head of the port to the shore of the Propontis. These lines were formed of a mound of earth, and they served both to restrain the sorties of the besieged,

and to cover the troops from the fire of the enemy's artillery and missiles. The batteries were then formed: the principal were erected against the gate Charsias, in the quarter of Blachern, and against the gate of St. Romanos, near the centre of the city wall. It was against this last gate that the fire of the monster gun was directed and the chief attack was made.

"The land forces of the Turks probably amounted to about seventy thousand men of all arms and qualities; but the real strength of the army lay in the corps of janissaries, then the best infantry in Europe, and their number did not exceed twelve thousand. At the same time, twenty thousand cavalry, mounted on the finest horses of the Turkoman breed, and hardened by long service, were ready to fight either on horseback or on foot under the eye of their young sultan. The fleet which had been collected along the Asiatic coast, from the ports of the Black Sea to those of the Ægean, brought additional supplies of men, provisions, and military stores. It consisted of three hundred and twenty vessels of various sizes and forms. The greater part were only half-decked coasters, and even the largest were far inferior in size to the galleys and galleasses of the Greeks and Italians.

"The fortifications of Constantinople, towards the land side, vary so little from a straight line that they afford great facilities for attack. The defences had been originally constructed on a magnificent scale, and with great skill, according to the ancient art of war. Even though they were partly ruined by time, and weakened by careless reparations, they still offered a formidable obstacle to the imperfect science of the engineers in Mohammed's army. Two lines of wall, each flanked with its own towers, rose one above the other, overlooking a broad and deep ditch. The interval between these walls enabled the defenders to form in perfect security, and facilitated their operations in clearing the ditch and retarding the preparation for assault. The actual appearance of the low walls of Constantinople, with the ditch more than half-filled up, gives only an incorrect picture of their former state.

"Mohammed had made his preparations for the siege with so much skill that his preliminary works advanced with unexpected rapidity. The numerical superiority of his army, and the precautions he had adopted for strengthening his lines, rendered the sorties of the garrison useless. The ultimate success of the defence depended on the arrival of assistance from abroad; but the numbers of the Othoman fleet seemed to render even this hope almost desperate. An incident occurred that showed the immense advantage conferred by skill, when united with courage, over an apparently irresistible superiority of force in naval warfare. Four large ships, laden with grain and stores, one of which bore the Greek and the other the Genoese flag, had remained for some time wind-bound at Chios, and were anxiously expected at Constantinople. At daybreak these ships were perceived by the Turkish watchmen steering for Constantinople with a strong breeze in their favour. The war-galleys of the sultan, under the command of the Capitan-pasha Baltaoglu, immediately got under way to capture them. The sultan himself rode down to the point of Tophané to witness a triumph which he considered certain, and which he thought would reduce his enemy to despair. The Greeks crowded the walls of the city, offering up prayers for their friends, and trembling for their safety in the desperate struggle that awaited them. The Christians had several advantages which their nautical experience enabled them to turn to good account. The great size of their ships, the strength of their construction, their weight, and their high bulwarks, were all powerful means of defence when aided by a stiff breeze blowing directly in the teeth of their opponents. The Turks were compelled to row their galleys against this wind and the heavy sea it raised. In vain they attacked the Christians with reckless valour, fighting under the eye of their fiery sovereign. The skill of their enemy rendered all their attacks abortive. In vain one squadron attempted to impede the progress of the

Christians, while another endeavoured to run alongside and carry them by boarding. Every Turkish galley that opposed their progress was crushed under the weight of their heavy hulls, while those that endeavoured to board had their oars shivered in the shock, and drifted helpless far astern. The few that succeeded for a moment in retaining their place alongside were either sunk by immense angular blocks of stone that were dropped on their frail timbers, or were filled with flames and smoke by the Greek fire that was poured upon them. The rapidity with which the best galleys were sunk or disabled appalled the bravest; and at last the Turks shrank from close combat, on an element where they saw that valour without experience was of no avail. The Christian ships, in the meantime, held steadily on their course, under all the canvass their masts could carry, until they rounded the point of St. Demetrius and entered the port, where the chain was joyfully lowered to admit them."

It was not till the end of May that the city was taken by assault, the defences having been well sustained during the interval:—

"Before the dawn of day, on the morning of the 29th May, 1453, the signal was given for the attack. Column after column marched forward, and took up their ground before the portions of the wall they were ordered to assail. The galleys, fitted with towers and scaling-platforms, advanced against the fortifications of the port protected by the guns on the bridge. But the principal attack was directed against the breach at the gate of St. Romanos, where two flanking towers had fallen into the ditch and opened a passage into the interior of the city. The gate of Charsias and the quarter of Blachern were also assailed by chosen regiments of janissaries in overwhelming numbers. The attack was made with daring courage, but for more than two hours every point was successfully defended. In the port, the Italian and Greek ships opposed the Turkish galleys so effectually that the final result appeared to favour the besieged. But on the land side one column of troops followed the other in an incessant stream. The moment a division fell back from the assault new battalions occupied its place. The valour of the besieged was for some time successful, but they were at last fatigued by their exertions, and their scanty numbers were weakened by wounds and death. Unfortunately, Justiniani, the protospathar or marshal of the army, and the ablest officer in the place, received a wound which induced him to retire on board his ship to have it dressed. Until that moment he and the emperor had defended the great breach with advantage, but after his retreat Sagan Pasha, observing that the energy of the defenders was relaxed, excited the bravest of the janissaries to mount to the assault. A chosen company led by Hassan of Ulubad (Lopadion), a man of gigantic frame, first crossed the ruins of the wall, and their leader gained the summit of the dilapidated tower which flanked the breach. The defenders, headed by the Emperor Constantine, made a desperate resistance. Hassan and many of his followers were slain, but the janissaries had secured the vantage-ground, and fresh troops pouring in to their aid, they surrounded the defenders of the breach. The emperor fell amidst a heap of slain, and a column of janissaries rushed into Constantinople over his lifeless body.

"About the same time another corps of the Othomans forced an entrance into the city at the Gate of the Circus, which had been left almost without defence, for the besieged were not sufficiently numerous to guard the whole line of the fortifications, and their best troops were drawn to the points where the attacks were fiercest. The corps that forced the Gate of the Circus took the defenders of the Gate Charsias in the rear, and overpowered all resistance in the quarter of Blachern.

"Several gates were now thrown open, and the army entered Constantinople at several points. The cry that the enemy had stormed the walls preceded their march. Senators, priests, monks, and

nuns; men, women, and children, all rushed to seek safety in St. Sophia's. A prediction current among the Greeks flattered them with the vain hope that an angel would descend from heaven and destroy the Mohammedans, in order to reveal the extent of God's love for the orthodox. St. Sophia's, which for some time they had forsaken, as a spot profaned by the emperor's attempt at a union of the Christian world, was again revered as the sanctuary of orthodoxy, and was crowded with the flower of the Greek nation, confident of a miraculous interposition in favour of their national pride and ecclesiastical prejudices.

"The besiegers, when they first entered the city, fearing lest they might encounter serious resistance in the narrow streets, put every soul they encountered to the sword. But as soon as they were fully aware of the small number of the garrison, and the impossibility of any further opposition, they began to make prisoners. At length they reached St. Sophia's, and, rushing into that magnificent temple, which could with ease contain about twenty thousand persons, they performed deeds of plunder and violence not unlike the scenes which the Crusaders had enacted in the same spot in the year 1204. The men, women, and children who had sought safety in the building were divided among the soldiers as slaves, without any reference to their rank or respect for their ties of blood, and hurried off to the camp, or placed under the guard of comrades, who formed a joint alliance for the security of their plunder. The ecclesiastical ornaments and church-plate were poor indeed when compared with the immense riches of the Byzantine cathedral in the time of the Crusaders; but whatever was movable was immediately divided among the soldiers with such celerity, that the mighty temple soon presented few traces of having been a Christian church.

"While one division of the victorious army was engaged in plundering the southern side of the city, from the Gate of St. Romanos to the Church of St. Sophia, another, turning to the port, made itself master of the warehouses that were filled with merchandise, and surrounded the Greek troops under the Grand-duke Notaras. The Greeks were easily subdued, and Notaras surrendered himself a prisoner.

"About mid-day the Turks were in possession of the whole city, and Mohammed II. entered his new capital at the Gate of St. Romanos, riding triumphantly past the body of the Emperor Constantine, which lay concealed among the slain in the breach he had defended."

The frequent authorities cited by Mr. Finlay in his footnotes attest the carefulness and extent of his researches, and give the reader confidence in his accuracy and fidelity as an historian.

*Gomer. Second Part. Containing a Critical View of the Cymraeg, both Ancient and Present; with Specimens from the Works of the Oldest Cymric Poets.* By John Williams, A.M., Archdeacon of Cardigan. Hughes and Butler.

ARCHDEACON WILLIAMS has published this as a supplement to his former volume on the language of the Cymry. In the first part of 'Gomer' the author showed that the Cymraeg, "a most primitive and vigorous offshoot of the original language of the Noachidae," furnishes to the student much traditional lore concerning the early history of mankind and their primeval civilization. Many striking illustrations were given of the fact that nations, and the British especially, had degenerated from an early state of higher civilization, traces of which appeared not so much in monumental as in literary remains. In proof of this, specimens were presented of the oldest Cymric documents, and an exposition given of the knowledge and wisdom displayed in

them. The importance of the subject, and the spirit in which Archdeacon Williams regards its investigation, may be seen from the following passage:—

"I may express my belief that the long cherished traditions of the Cymry respecting their oriental origin, their westward migration to the shores of the German Ocean and of the British Channel, of the primary occupation of western Gaul and the British Islands by their ancestors, and of the preservation, amidst all the vicissitudes of adverse and prosperous fortune, of their language and knowledge, which they properly deemed their best inheritance, may all be confirmed by sufficient evidence.

"We honour men like Cuvier and Owen, who from fragmentary bones taught us to re-construct the framework of animals long extinct, and to clothe the skeleton with its appropriate muscles and integuments, but more important the study and more lofty the labours of the Philologist who from the disjointed fragments of ancient languages, those precious monuments, not of the material world nor of the brute creation, but of the spiritual and intellectual man, is enabled to recover the ancients' thoughts and sentiments which found utterance through their medium."

One department of the inquiry on which the author dwelt much in his former treatise, was the use in the Cymric language of words and forms expressing the intuitive beliefs of human nature, those primary truths upon which the philosophy of the conditioned depends. On this point the author has been gratified by receiving a letter from Sir William Hamilton, the highest of all authorities on such subjects, who, after reading 'Gomer,' thus wrote to the author,—"In so far as your own execution is concerned, I am strongly impressed with the accurate knowledge you display of the doctrine of the conditioned, a doctrine which you illustrate with great talent and perspicuity. It seems to me that every one must understand it as stated by you. The vestiges you have found of it in the ancient Cymraeg are certainly most curious as they are most venerable. They can scarcely fail of exerting a very favourable influence on philosophic opinion, and I feel much flattered that any speculation of mine should obtain so competent an advocate and so weighty an authority as is the language of your ancient people."

The present volume is chiefly occupied with fragments of the oldest Cymric poems, in their original form, with translations and comments. The author endeavours to restore the ancient orthography, which exhibits a greater identity with a large class of vocables common to the civilized nations of Asia, North Africa, and Europe. He thinks that a great corruption of Welsh orthography was introduced in the fifteenth century, possibly in consequence of Glendower's insurrection, and the barbarous laws passed by Henry IV. for the suppression of native learning, when words began to be written to suit the English pronunciation of the day. These and other questions we must leave for the consideration of Cambrian archaeologists, giving to our readers only one example of the kind of subjects which are discussed in the work. Some lines of an ancient British poem are quoted, the oldest probably that has reached us in unaltered form, upon which the following remarks are made, prefatory to the translation and commentary. The opinion of Edward Llwyd is first given, and then the author's own view of the composition:—

"Edward Llwyd, in his 'Archæologia,' page 231, thus writes:—'The following is the ancient language of the Britons in the north of this Island.



I found it in the first leaf of an old Latin book, on decayed vellum, written in a Gwyddelian hand about one thousand years ago (Llwyd wrote this about the year A.D. 1700). By the writing, and by a few more words of the same language, I am certain that the book has come from Scotland, and I can also compute the age of the manuscript. I know not whether it is the language of the Strathclyde Britons, or of the Picts or old Caledonians; it is the oldest and strangest British I have yet seen. I do not understand the aim and meaning of the lines.

"It is now historically known that the Picts of the sixth and seventh centuries were the ancient Caledonians, who had retained their independence between the Forth, the Grampians, and the German Ocean, and who were of the same race, language, and religion as the Southern Britons. In the struggle against the Romans they had been aided by the Scots of Ireland, who finally crossed over and settled peaceably in those districts, where they have ever since remained.

"In the terrible break-up which immediately followed the final expulsion of the Romans, the Maiores, or the inhabitants of the spacious territory between the two walls, must have made common cause with the Picts and Scots, and have aided them in overthrowing all who, like Gildas, clung to the shadow of the Roman empire, and despaired of safety on any other terms than a servile tenure under a worn-out despotism.

"Had not this been the case, it would not be possible to account for the existence within those limits of the warlike Britons, and their kings and chiefs, whom the Angles found in possession about the middle of the sixth century.

"The language of these Britons is still extant in the remains of the Caledonian Merddin and other cotemporary writers, and does not differ essentially from the language of the Britons of the South.

"Edward Llwyd, a good authority in such a case, ascribed the verses written on a leaf in a copy of 'Juvencius,' to Northern Britons and to the seventh century. At that time there were only four races in North Britain—the Cymry in Cumbria and Strathclyde, the Scots in the Western Islands and Highlands, the Picts in the East, between the Pentland Frith and the Forth, and the Angles in Bernicia. The language of the manuscript is certainly neither Anglic nor Gaelic, although both Edward Llwyd and Edward Davies thought they recognised some words as decidedly Irish. It differs also considerably from the Cymric of Strathclyde; but the difference is not lingual, but only dialectical, so that a scholar can recognise its substantial identity with the ancient British tongue.

"I do not hesitate to pronounce it an unique surviving specimen of the Pictish composition in the language mentioned by Bede, as a living speech in his day, and as the representative of the language of Galgacus and his Caledonians, partially perhaps affected by the intercourse established between the Picts and Scots during their long-continued struggles against Imperial Rome."

The number of our readers who understand the original is probably too small to make it worth while quoting it, or to justify us in dwelling further on the subject, but those who are interested in philological and archaeological researches will find some new and remarkable materials in this work on the Cymraeg. As a contribution to the history and philosophy of language the book is valuable. If we are not satisfied that the ancient Cymry were as civilized and learned and wise as Archdeacon Williams wishes us to believe, we can at least say that, as formerly in 'Homerus,' so now in 'Gomer,' he has written a most ingenious and learned disquisition, *De sapientiâ veterum*.

*The Dramatic Works of Mary Russell Mitford.* Author of 'Our Village,' &c. Hurst and Blackett.

It is not to her dramatic writings that Miss Mitford owes the honourable place she holds among living authors. We say this although remembering the popular success of *Rienzi* as an acted play, and knowing the flattering praises bestowed on her other dramas by distinguished critics. She tell us, in the introduction to the present volumes, that she would have written many more tragedies, but "that the pressing necessity of earning money, and the uncertainty and delays of the drama at moments when disappointment or delay weighed upon her like a sin, made it a duty to turn away from the lofty step of tragic poetry to the every-day path of village-stories." This descent to lower literary ground may at first have appeared mortifying to Miss Mitford, but it was well for her permanent reputation as well as for her immediate comfort. We are not insensible to the high merits displayed in her dramatic works, but she appears to far less advantage in the artificial dress and stilted style adopted for the stage, than when, with quiet easy natural grace, she charms every reader by her sketches of English village life and scenery. Of this she seems to be herself wisely conscious, when she tells us that these plays now collected and reprinted at the earnest solicitation of a friend, Mr. Francis Beunoch, had fallen into such utter oblivion, that she might also have forgotten them, but for an occasionally vague dream that they might be published after her hand was cold in the grave, and be received with the kindly indulgence which follows the death of any one who has contributed to the public amusement. Now that the author herself edits her tragedies, she prays that they may be as mercifully dealt with as if indeed published by an executor. We forbear from criticism on the plainer ground of the works not being new, but we must express our satisfaction with the pleasing and genial literary and dramatic recollections prefixed by Miss Mitford as an introduction to the work. From this we give a few extracts:—

"It was during the five years from ten years old to fifteen, which I passed at a London school, that my passion for the acted drama received its full development. At this school (well known afterwards as the residence of poor Miss Landon) there chanced to be an old pupil of the establishment who, having lived, as the phrase goes, in several families of distinction, was at that time disengaged, and in search of a situation as governess. This lady was not only herself a poetess, (I have two volumes of verse of her writing,) but she had a knack of making poetesses of her pupils. She had already educated Lady Caroline Ponsonby, (the Lady Caroline Lamb, of Glenalvon celebrity,) and was afterwards destined to give her first instruction to poor L. E. L., and her last to Mrs. Fanny Kemble. She was, however, a clever woman, and my father eagerly engaged her to act by me as a sort of private tutor—a governess out of school hours.

"At the time when I was placed under her care, her whole heart was in the drama, especially as personified by John Kemble; and I am persuaded that she thought she could in no way so well perform her duty, as in taking me to Drury Lane whenever his name was in the bills.

"It was a time of great actors. Jack Bannister and Jack Johnstone, (they would not have known their own names if called John,) Fawcett and Emery, Lewis and Munden, Mrs. Davenport, Miss Pope, and Mrs. Jordan, most exquisite of all, made comedy a bright and living art, an art as full as life itself of laughter and of tears; whilst the

glorious family of Kemble satisfied alike the eye and the intellect, the fancy and the heart.

"John Kemble was, however, certainly Miss Rowden's chief attraction to Drury Lane Theatre. She believed him—and of course her pupil shared in her faith—the greatest actor that ever had been, or that ever could be; greater than Garrick, greater than Kean. I am more catholic now; but I still hold all my admiration, except its exclusiveness.

"If Foote's reputation have been injured, as I think it has, by his own double talent as an actor and a mimic, so the fame of John Kemble—that perishable actor's fame—has suffered not a little by the contact with his great sister. Besides her uncontested and incontestable power, Mrs. Siddons had one advantage not always allowed for—she was a woman. The actress must always be dearer than the actor; goes closer to the heart, draws tenderer tears. Then she came earlier, and took the first possession; and she lasted longer, charming all London by her reading, whilst he lay in a foreign grave. Add that the tragedy in which they were best remembered was one in which the heroine must always predominate, for *Lady Macbeth* is the moving spirit of the play. But take characters of more equality—*Katharine* and *Wolsey*, *Hermione* and *Leontes*, *Coriolanus* and *Volumnia*, *Hamlet* and the *Queen*—and surely John Kemble may hold his own. How often have I seen them in those plays! What would I give to see again those plays so acted!

"Another and a very different test of John Kemble's histrionic skill was the life and body which he put into the thin shadowy sketches of Kotzebue, then in his height of fashion. Mr. Canning, by the capital parodies of the 'Anti-Jacobin,' demolished the sentimental comedy of the German school, a little unmercifully perhaps, for with much that was false and absurd, and the bald gibberish of the translator, for which the author is not answerable, the situations were not only effective, but true. As Mr. Thackeray has somewhere observed, the human heart was there, and John Kemble contrived to show its innermost throbbings. In *Pennruddock* (for *The Wheel of Fortune* is of German origin, although written by an Englishman), in *Rolla*, in the *Abbé de l'Épée*, three creations essentially various in form and in matter, nobody that has seen him can forget his grace, his pathos, or the manner in which he lent a poetry of feeling to the homeliest prose. In the old French philanthropist particularly, a part which is nothing, the smallness of the means, the absence of all apparent effort, produced that perfection of art which looks like simple nature. Such were my first impressions of London acting."

There is a lively and amusing description of Covent Garden theatre, in the days when it was yet a temple of 'the legitimate drama':—

"Captain Forbes, one of the proprietors, and a naval man, used to compare the stage with its three tiers of underground store-rooms and magazines, and its prodigious height and complexity of top hamper aloft, to a first-rate man-of-war. That comparison is rather too flattering. To me—no offence to the Theatre Royal Covent Garden—it always recalled the place where I first made acquaintance with the enchantment of the scene, by reminding me of some prodigious barn. A barn it certainly resembles, vast, dusty, dusky and cavernous, with huge beams tottering overhead, holes yawning beneath, rough partitions sticking out on either side, and everywhere a certain vague sense of obscurity and confusion.

"When the eye becomes accustomed to the darkness, the contrasts are sufficiently amusing. Solemn tragedians—that is to say, tragedians who seem solemn enough in their stage gear at night—hatted and great-coated, skipping about, chatting and joking, and telling good stories like common mortals; indeed, the only very grave person whom I remarked was Mr. Liston; tragic heroines sauntering languidly through their parts in the closest of bonnets and thickest of shawls; untidy ballet-girls (there was a dance in *Foscari*) walking

through their quadrille to the sound of a solitary fiddle, striking up as if of its own accord from amidst the tall stools and music-desks of the orchestra, and piercing one hardly knew how through the din that was going on incessantly.

"Oh, that din! Voices from every part, above, below, around, and in every key, bawling, shouting, screaming; heavy weights rolling here and falling there, bells ringing one could not tell why, and the ubiquitous call-boy everywhere! If one element prevailed amongst these conflicting noises, it was certainly the never-pausing strokes of the carpenter's hammer, which in our case did double duty, the new scenery of the morrow being added to the old scenery of the night. Double, too, were the cares not merely of the official before-mentioned, the call-boy, but of his superiors, the stage-manager and the prompter; for whilst we, the new tragedy, held after our strange scrambling fashion possession of the stage, the comedy or opera of the evening was crowded into the green-room, to the great increase of our confusion and their own; some of their people belonging to us, and some of ours to them, and neither party being ever in the proper place, so that there were perpetual sendings after their walking gentlemen and our walking ladies, the common property.

"The scenery, too, that part which was fished up from the subterranean galleries, was fertile in blunders. I have known a fine view of the Rialto with a bit of Charing Cross for one wing, and a slice of the Forest of Arden for the other. Even the new scenes had their perils. Painter and manager would disagree as to the size of the moon, and a good half-hour was wasted one morning in experiments as to the best manner of folding the [muslin] clouds over the face of that bright luminary.

"Then the turmoil about costume! A good deal of that squabbling was transacted in some remote part of the upper regions, where tailors and dress-makers held their court; but some of the difficulties descended upon the stage. There was a cloak in *Julian*, which having to act as a pall to the fair *Annabel*, never could be made wide enough; and all the precedents of all the *Duke's* head-dresses in all the theatres of the world, from that in the *Merchant of Venice* to that in *Venice Preserved*, never could persuade me that the tall inverted drum assumed by Mr. Young was the proper bonnet of the *Doge*. This, however, was my own private grief. Through all their courtesy, I had early made the discovery, that the less an author meddled in such matters the better. One dispute was open and general: it had reference to the proper time of assuming mourning. *Donato* (we are still talking of *Foscari*) died in the third act: the question was, whether his son and daughter should put on black in the fourth—that is, the next morning. Parties were divided: the anti-blacks holding that it is not customary to go into mourning before the funeral. The debate ended, as debates in higher places are apt to end in our good kingdom of England, in a compromise. The lady appeared in the deepest sables that the dressmaker could furnish; her brother retained the radiant suit of satin and embroidery which he had worn from the commencement of the play; a manner of settling the dispute which, like the aforesaid compromises in higher places, had the effect of making both parties seem wrong.

"No end to the absurdities and discrepancies of a rehearsal! I contributed my full share to the amount, and began pretty early, so soon indeed as the very first words that I ever uttered behind the scenes. There is a gun in *Julian*; and I, frightened by one when a child, 'hate a gun like a hurt wild-duck'; and the only time that I ever went to a review coaxed my father to drive me home before it began. I was only twelve years old then; but I had not much improved by becoming a tragic authoress, for my first address to Mr. Macready was an earnest entreaty that he would not suffer them to fire that gun at rehearsal. They did fire nevertheless; as indeed if the gun had not gone off in the morning, it might have been forgotten at night; but the smiling bow of the great tragedian

had spared me the worst part of that sort of fright, the expectation.

"Troubled and anxious though they were, those were pleasant days, guns and all; days of hope dashed with so much fear, of fear illumined with its fitful rays of hope. And those rehearsals, where for noise of every sort nobody can hear himself speak, where nobody is ever to be found where he is wanted, and nobody ever seems to know a syllable of his part; those rehearsals must have some good in them notwithstanding. In the midst of the crowd, the din, the jokes, and the confusion, the business must somehow have gone on; for at night the right scenes fall into the right places, the proper actors come at the proper times, speeches are spoken in due order, and, to the no small astonishment of the novice, who had given herself up for lost, the play succeeds.

"Not that I had nerve enough to attend the first representation of my tragedies. I sat still and trembling in some quiet apartment near, twice I think in a small room belonging to that good-natured person Mr. George Robins; and thither some friend flew to set my heart at ease. Generally the messenger of good tidings was poor Haydon, whose quick and ardent spirit lent him wings on such an occasion, and who had full sympathy with my love for a large canvas, however indifferently filled."

Of the origin and history of her several tragedies, acted and not acted, an account is given in the introduction, besides notices prefixed to the several plays. Some of the triumphs and the trials to which dramatic writers are subject may be seen in the remarks on the reception of *Rienzi*, and the suppression of *Charles L.*—

"When *Rienzi*, after a more than common portion of adventures and misadventures, did come out with a success rare in a woman's life, I missed the eager congratulations which I should have received from her who had taken so large a part in its previous history—missed her, the rather, perhaps, because no part of my success was more delightful than the pleasure which it excited amongst the most eminent of my female contemporaries. Maria Edgeworth, Joanna Bailie, Felicia Hemans (and to two of them I was at that time unknown), vied in the cordiality of their praises. In Mrs. Hemans, this warmth was peculiarly generous, for *Julian*, and *The Vespers of Palermo* had been placed, by circumstances, in such a position as might have made us rivals if we had not determined to be friends. Kindness met me on every hand, from eminent men, from eminent women, still I missed her whose cheering prognostics had so often spurred me on, and whose latest interest in literature had been excited by this very play.

"And dramatic success, after all, is not so delicious, so glorious, so complete a gratification as, in our secret longings, we all expect to find. It is not satisfactory. It does not fill the heart. It is an intoxication, followed like other intoxications, by a dismal reaction. The enchanting hope is gone, and is ill-replaced by a temporary triumph—very temporary! Within four-and-twenty hours, I doubted if triumph there were, and more than doubted if it were deserved. It is ill success that leads to self-assertion. Never in my life was I so conscious of my dramatic short-comings as on that day of imputed exultation and vainglory.

"Then came *Charles the First* and his calamities, of a very different sort from any of the former, since managers and actors were equally eager to bring out the play. The hindrance lay in Mr. George Colman, the licenser, who saw a danger to the state in permitting the trial of an English Monarch to be represented on the stage, especially a Monarch whose martyrdom was still observed in our churches. It was in vain that I urged that my play was ultra loyal; that having taken the very best moment of Charles's life, and the very worst of Cromwell's; and having, moreover, succumbed to the temptation of producing, as far as in me lay, a strong dramatic contrast between the characters, I had, in point of

fact, done considerable injustice to the greatest man of his age. Mr. Colman was inexorable; and the tragedy, forbidden at the two great houses, was afterwards produced at a minor theatre with no ill effect to the reigning dynasty. I have retained the original Preface, as giving a curious view of a state of things now happily passed away. Let me add that as consolations are to be found for most evils, if we will but look for them, so pleasanter associations present themselves even here in the kindness of the Duke of Devonshire, of Mr. Serle, and very recently of Mr. Jerrold."

Of various other distinguished names there are interesting personal recollections, as this of Gifford of the 'Quarterly':—

"In my very early girlhood, I had followed my destiny as a pupil of Miss Rowden, by committing the sin of rhyming. No less than three octavo volumes had I perpetrated in two years. They had all the faults incident to a young lady's verses, and one of them had been deservedly castigated by the 'Quarterly.'—

To which is subjoined the following note:—

"This article was fortunate for the writer at a far more important moment. Mr. Gifford himself, as I have been given to understand, feeling that, however well deserved the strictures might be, an attack by his great Review upon a young girl's first book, was something like breaking a butterfly upon the wheel, made amends by a criticism in a very different spirit on the first series of 'Our Village,' which was of much service to the work. I mention this, because it is honourable to the memory of one whom I never even saw, but who was probably, like many other people, kinder than he seemed."

Of the late Mr. Justice Talfourd we have this incidental notice:—

"I was about to relinquish the pursuit in despair, when I met with a critic so candid, a friend so kind, that, aided by his encouragement, all difficulties seemed to vanish. I speak of the author of 'Ion,' Mr. Justice Talfourd, then a very young man, although old in literary reputation, and helping me, as he has helped many a struggler since, by the most judicious advice and the heartiest sympathy. 'Foscari' was the result of this encouragement—a womanish play, which acts better than it reads. Indeed, being at Oxford, where an excellent company was performing during the long vacation, I heard that it contained no fewer than four fair Camillas who had acted my heroine in different circuits. 'Foscari' was quickly followed by 'Julian,' originally suggested by the first scene of the 'Orestes' of Euripides, which happened to be given that year at Reading School."

The pages about Reading School and its renowned master, Dr. Valpy, will awaken agreeable recollections in elderly readers of Miss Mitford's book. The dramatic pieces in the second volume were originally contributed, some to 'The London Magazine,' and the rest were written, the author tells us, "for various annuals, in the palmy days of those pretty books; the days of Thomas Hood and of Winthrop Praed, of Mrs. Hemans and of L. E. L., when engravings were mingled with prose and verse, and neither verse nor prose was written to illustrate the pictures."

*The Nemesis of Power: Causes and Forms of Revolution.* By James Augustus St. John. Chapman and Hall.

THE title of Mr. St. John's book stands in need of interpretation; and he gives the following prefatory account of it:—

"Nemesis is the personification of Justice, and is, therefore, engaged equally in rewarding and in punishing. Her movements are slow, but irresistible; and She is ever at work in human society, ensuring ultimate triumph to the Good, and per-



tion to the Wicked. She may be regarded, therefore, as the inseparable attendant on Power, to uphold and encourage it when exercised for the benefit of mankind, to repress and chastise it when perverted to their injury or destruction."

The work of this avenging power, the personification of Providence in the control of national events, is traced in a review of the causes and forms of revolution in continental countries, especially in France. The true causes of the dreadful outbreak of popular violence at the first French Revolution are shown to have sprung from the profligacy of the Court, the corruption of the clergy, and the despotism of the nobles and privileged classes. In the description of the state of society in France, and in other countries, the author presents many striking historical facts, and expounds the true principles of national revolutions. At the present time the following remarks on the political and financial condition of the two great despotic powers of Europe, Russia and Austria, will be read with interest:—

"The policy of the Russian government, which seeks above all things to perpetuate tyranny, prevents at the same time the growth of intelligence, because knowledge is not only power, but a power irreconcilable with arbitrary sway. To educate the people there, would no doubt be to multiply wealth, but it would at the same time be equally certain to scatter far and wide the seeds of revolution; for wealth also is power, and its possessors are in general little disposed to abandon what they have earned by toil and industry to the capricious ambition of despotism. By the operation of causes not within the control of the government, a great change has taken place even in the national character of the Muscovites. The men of property, who have traded and travelled and thought, look with secret disapprobation upon the conquering schemes of the Czar, which must be matured more or less at their expense, and already revolve in their minds the means of checking his reckless ambition. This will lead to the combination of the mercantile classes and the nobles, and create by degrees a check to the authority of the crown, in all likelihood through insurrection and violence. Meanwhile the poverty of the State obstructs the organization and marching of great armies. The soldiers, ill-clothed and ill-fed, engage with little ardour in carrying out the designs of their master. The mortality in all distant campaigns is enormous. In whatever direction they move, the hospitals are crowded with the living, the ditches and bogs with the dead; and fearing from the beginning what is likely to be their fate, they desert in multitudes whenever circumstances enable them to escape from their regiments.

"Austria affords another instance of the poverty engendered by despotism. The Athenian orator, in his harangues, used to ridicule those paper battalions, as he denominated them, with which the contemporary Grecian states habitually menaced each other. The sovereigns of the house of Hapsburg have been great proficient in the same system of strategy, by which, however, they have frequently succeeded in exciting throughout Christendom an extraordinary apprehension of their power; but the most sordid indigence lurks in the imperial treasury. Every act, therefore, of unjust aggression, is preceded by negotiations with the children of Israel for the means of perpetrating the crime. If these wily coadjutors of tyranny, dissatisfied with the offered percentage, persist in holding back their gold, the complicated apparatus of oppression, the heavy dragons, the light and gay hussars, the stalwart infantry, the formidable parks of artillery, must remain immovable. Sometimes it happens, through the operation of this cause, that whole regiments are reduced to skeletons, that there are muskets and haversacks without men to bear them, cavalry corps without horses, and whole armies half-starved and depressed, crawling about in tatters,

with the bitterest rage in their hearts against those who have reduced them to so despicable a state. In the old wars of the Low Countries, the Spanish soldiers were frequently compelled to subsist by begging; and when this proved unproductive, by robbing in the streets, or on the highway. Occasionally their destitution urged them to still more desperate attempts; they took towns by storm, lived there at free quarters, defended them against the royal troops, and persevered in their hopeless independence till they were overcome and cut to pieces.

"If things have not proceeded thus far in the Austrian armies, they are fast verging towards the same point; while the political organization of the empire is, if possible, in a still more disordered condition. In Bohemia, Croatia, Hungary, and above all in Italy, people of all ranks are animated with profound disaffection; the Italians, more especially, are universally impregnated with republican principles, and looking forward to the Nemesis of revolution to avenge them on their oppressors. All that can be expected of an indignant population they accomplish for the ruin of the imperial financiers; and it seems not improbable that the deficit caused in the public revenue, by this and other means, will commence the disruption of that organized mass which we denominate Austria."

Among the mischievous influences at work in modern society, Mr. St. John does not hesitate to speak plainly of Popery. Many literary men are disposed to avoid this subject, under the mistaken idea that it is illiberal to refer to religious differences, which can only affect individual character. But no student of history or observer of life can pretend to be ignorant of the pernicious working of the Papal system, both on national character and on the general progress of mankind in knowledge and happiness. Making due allowance for the distinction to be drawn between the Romish Church as a religious community, and the Papacy as a political power working through spiritual agency, of Popery and the Jesuits thus Mr. St. John writes:—

"At the head of all churches, considered simply as instruments of mental subjugation, stands that of Rome. Unitary in itself the focus of secular despotism and ecclesiastical imposture, it extends its empire over much the greater part of Christendom. Wherever intellect has exhibited a disposition to be refractory, whether against kings or priests, the Papal system, sympathising profoundly with tyranny, has invariably placed its racks and gibbets, its wheels and pulleys, its chains and dungeons, its thumb-screws and martyr-flames, at the service of oppression. By a steady adherence to this policy, framed with consummate craft and developed with intrepid villany, it has succeeded in defrauding a majority of Christian nations of their inalienable birthright—liberty. Spain, once filled with a chivalrous and gallant population, has sunk gradually through the chilling influence of priests and monks, almost to a level with the grovelling tyrannies of Africa. In Austria and throughout Germany, except where Protestantism is established, a formidable ecclesiastical militia suppresses all tendencies towards liberalism.

"Modern society looks with wonder and terror at the secret combinations of former ages as delineated by history, and is unconscious that similar combinations exist in its own bosom, organized by monarchs and priests for the subversion of freedom. The same Jesuits who co-operated with the Ferdinands, the Philips, and the Rodolphs, in extirpating religious and liberal ideas from the popular mind, are still labouring under the descendants of those despots at exactly the same task. Scarcely any fireside is free from the intrusion of this black fraternity, which has become indispensable to absolute princes. Hence, though the order has at various times been hunted down and suppressed, it is sure to revive again to meet the exigencies of arbitrary power. The numerous revolutions in

France have been rendered completely nugatory by the disciples of Loyola. Openly, or in disguise they are ever at hand to bar the emerging of the people into light. Their mission is to inculcate immorality, servility, meanness, ignorance—everything that can lead mankind to bow their neck patiently to the yoke.

"Like the Greek priests, or the pagan prototypes of Rome, they distinguish themselves by their solicitude to accomplish the apotheosis of imperial guilt. The blood of the people sends up a sweet savour to their nostrils, they bless the hand that perpetrates a street massacre, they diffuse themselves through villages and hamlets, they creep stealthily into the dwellings of the peasants, they ingratiate themselves with helpless mothers and children, whom they pollute by their superstitions, till they are ready to lisp or mumble with adoration the name of the destroyer of their kindred. This demoralizing process we have witnessed with deep affliction in France, where the struggle henceforward must be between the Republic and the Jesuits. One of these powers must be exterminated before the other can triumph. Liberty, however, is now depressed, its advocates are in prison or in exile, and not a few of the most distinguished have expiated their attachment to it with their lives. When the day of retribution comes, the people in all likelihood will put in practice the lesson which the past has taught them. They have tried moderation, and it has not answered their hopes. Next time they will probably make an experiment in the opposite direction."

That the writer is not animated by hostility to religion or to its ministers, while speaking of the abuses of ecclesiastical influence, will be seen from the following earnest and eloquent appeal:—

"How has it come to pass, that among nations which embrace with all the earnestness of conviction the sacred truths of the Gospel, the members of the Sacerdotal caste are nearly always viewed with suspicion and distrust? Observing them to be the antagonists of intellect, the people acquire with the first rudiments of knowledge, something like hostility to ecclesiastical bodies. No character is more venerable than that of a minister of Christianity, yet in many parts of the world, though completely under its dominion, the very name of a priest inspires aversion. The reason is, that laying aside the real characteristics of their high calling, the clergy have degenerated into a profession, intent like other men on the accumulation of capital, or the acquisition of honours and distinctions, with whatever else awakens the ambition, or constitutes the reward of mere worldlings. I am sensible that we must not task too severely the virtues of human nature. It is part of our lot here, though certainly the part of which we should be least proud, that the energy necessary to the pursuit of all active employments, requires the stimulus of gain. Yet certainly it seems not unreasonable to expect that the noblest and loftiest feelings of our nature, the love of God and of mankind, should inspire some degree of contempt for secular possessions. If, in all the earnestness and sincerity of our souls, we lay up our treasure, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal, we may very well be content to behold other men pass us by, in the race after titles and riches.

"Christ had neither titles, nor possessions, nor home, nor family, nor friends. The world gave him nothing.—scarcely the bread required to support his sacred life. Yet went he about indefatigably, night and day, in heat and cold, in hunger and weariness, in contempt often, in danger always, revealing to those with whom he was allied by his humanity, the way to be reconciled with God.

"His Apostles and immediate disciples followed humbly and patiently in the same track. Despised by grandeur, persecuted by governments, neglected by most men, they were so far from organizing a State Church, or desiring to organize one, that they purposely avoided all connexion with

the people in authority. Taking example by their Divine Master, it was to the poor they preached. But the power of God went along with them, and softened the flinty rock under their feet, and spread them a pillow in the wilderness, and gave them bread to eat which the world knew not of, and enveloped them with a light from heaven, and blessed them even here with the sweetest of all inheritances, a holy and sacred place in the memory of all succeeding generations."

Of the actual state of society throughout Europe at this moment, a dark but truthful picture is drawn, where the author says, that beneath the surface, which is kept quiet by the strong hand of military despotism, there are secret societies, conspiracies, plots, and machinations of all kinds engaged in organizing for the future. While the evils that must necessarily accompany the outbreak of these conspiracies are lamented, the author has the boldness to avow what many others think without saying. It is wonderful how much our moral estimate of political affairs is affected by selfish interests. If we heard, for instance, that there was a conspiracy in Russia against the despotism of the Czar, its success would be hailed with pleasure. But a similar revolt against oppression in the Austrian dominions would be condemned, because it would prove troublesome to a ruler with whom it seems our interest to be in alliance. Mr. St. John protests against this subordination of justice and right to mere policy, and declares that—

"It is lawful to conspire and plot; and they who fall in the attempt, become martyrs to the sacred cause. In Russia, in Germany, in Spain, in Italy, and in France, it is a virtue to conspire; and the same would be true in England if we could not speak our minds openly. And here we have the criterion by which a man may be able to decide between right and wrong. Where there exists no limit to the freedom of discussion, to conspire is a crime, because society, in that case, has clearly outlived the period in which it can be of use. But where public meetings are forbidden—where there is no legislative body placed beyond the control of authority—where the liberty of the press is not secured by law,—to conspire is the duty of a good citizen.

"History celebrates as patriots the men who banded together to expel the thirty tyrants from Athens; to overthrow the kings, and to put down the decemvirs at Rome; and afterwards, when the republic had been merged into the empire, who sought to revert to the commonwealth by the destruction of tyrants, the continuance of whose existence appeared to be an imputation on Providence. If, however, it was virtuous to be the member of a secret society intended to subvert the throne of Nero, or Caligula, or Commodus, or Vitellius, or Maximin, or any other monster, how can it be a crime to pursue the same course under the Russian despotism, or at Milan or Vienna? The great laws of morality are eternal, so that what was good in antiquity is good still. Men must be the sole judges of their own actions here, though society may permit the infliction of punishment, even for displays of heroic patriotism, as when Lord William Russell and Algernon Sydney were devoted to death for actions which are now admitted to entitle them to our gratitude."

Mr. St. John's democratic zeal leads him occasionally into excesses of liberal feeling, and exaggeration of language, which prudent and sensible readers must condemn. At the same time they cannot but be pleased with the genial enthusiasm by which the book is pervaded, and the hopeful spirit with which present political troubles are looked through, as the birthtime of brighter and better periods of human history.

## NOTICES.

*History of Charles the First and the English Revolution, from the Accession of Charles I. to his Execution.* By M. Guizot. Translated by Andrew R. Scoble. New Edition. Bentley.

M. GUIZOT has already completed two of the four works in which he proposes to publish his historical researches on the English Revolution. The first work, of which the present is an enlarged and improved edition, comprehends the reign of Charles I., his conflict with the Long Parliament, his defeat, and death. The second, lately reviewed by us, contains the history of the Commonwealth under the Long Parliament and Cromwell. A third work will contain the history of the restoration of the monarchy, after the brief protectorate of Richard Cromwell; and the fourth will comprise the reigns of Charles II. and James II. Together these four works will constitute a complete picture of the important epoch of English history from the accession of Charles I. to the Revolution settlement of 1688. M. Guizot has long directed his studies to this subject, and after publishing a collection of original memoirs on the English Revolution, he now writes its history. English readers, according to their knowledge or their prejudices, may object to particular portions of M. Guizot's work; but all must bear testimony to the tone of moderation and impartiality by which his narrative is pervaded, admiring also the learned labour and the philosophical spirit everywhere displayed.

*Memoir and Correspondence of Mrs. Coutts, widow of the late Rev. Robert Coutts, Brechin.* By the Rev. W. M. Hetherington, LL.D., Author of 'History of the Church of Scotland.' Johnstone and Hunter.

THIS volume presents the memoir of a Scottish lady, well known to all connected with religious and philanthropic schemes of late years in that part of the country, and whose unwearied energy and pecuniary means were consecrated to works of piety and usefulness. A memoir of such a character, if written by a biographer of judgment, is always profitable and instructive. But the life of Mrs. Coutts contains matter of deeper importance and wider interest than pertain to her personal biography. She lived during a period when great changes were passing in Scottish religious as well as social life. She was the granddaughter of the Rev. William Macculloch, of Cambuslang, who bore a conspicuous share in effecting that revival of religious faith in the middle of the eighteenth century, the influence of which is felt even to our own day. In England Whitefield was the principal agent in this great movement, and during his visits to his friend Macculloch at Cambuslang, his wonderful eloquence produced powerful and lasting effects. In his 'History of the Church of Scotland,' Dr. Hetherington has described with much fidelity and spirit the processes by which the scepticism and infidelity, which pervaded the Church and Universities of Scotland during last century, were gradually dispersed by the light of sounder philosophy and a more earnest Christianity. It was not, however, till Dr. Chalmers, and other men of combined genius and piety, filled chairs in the universities, that the influence of a better faith and philosophy was openly perceived throughout the country, not only in the churches and schools, but in the general tone of literature. The public mind had meanwhile been preparing for the change, not only by the influence of evangelical preachers, but also by the exertions of private persons, who, like the subject of this memoir, devoted themselves to the advancement of the best interests of the people. It is thus that the biographer explains, what might otherwise appear unusual, his "so much connecting with public events the memoir and correspondence of an unobtrusive Christian lady with other ladies, her Christian friends. He would request his readers," Dr. Hetherington says, "to bear in mind that Scotland has now no history but that of its religious life; and that the innermost, and therefore most real and true nature of that life may be best traced, most distinctly seen,

and most clearly understood, when viewed in connexion with the lives and experiences of Christian females, from whose personal character and influences it derives so much of its warmth, purity, and power." Such is the spirit in which the memoir was undertaken, and we recommend the book as an instructive and well-written piece of religious biography.

*The Poetical Works of Samuel Butler.* Vol. I.

With Life, Critical Dissertation, and Explanatory Notes. By the Rev. George Gilfillan. Nichol. IN Nichol's edition of the English poets, edited by George Gilfillan, the first volume of the works of Samuel Butler appears, containing the first and second parts of 'Hudibras.' The preliminary dissertation presents a very fair and discriminating estimate of the author and his works. For the personal character and principles of Butler little respect is shown, but ample justice is done to his genius and wit. With regard to the religious and political questions involved in the poem the editor, Presbyterian though he be, satisfies himself with a few words of dignified protest. "The reaction," he says, "that has taken place, of late, in behalf of the objects of Butler's hate and laughter, is so deep and final that it is not necessary to defend them further against him; and it were an insult to them to imagine that the republication of his clever caricature could do any injury to their memory, embalm as it is, in the gratitude of every liberal, enlightened, and Christian heart." Of Butler's personal history, especially in his latter years, little is known. He lived chiefly in London, in great poverty, and neglected by the selfish courtiers in whose cause he had prostituted his talents. Mr. Gilfillan thinks that had the fourth part of 'Hudibras' been written, "he would have let loose his satirical vengeance upon the rotten-hearted faction which had so neglected their laureate, and proclaimed their levity to be heartlessness, their ridicule to be itself ridiculous, their laughter to be folly, and their loyalty a farce." There are certainly indications, towards the close of the third canto, of the satire taking this turn.

## SUMMARY.

A NEW edition is published of *Popular Conchology*; or, the Shell Cabinet arranged according to the Modern System, with a detailed account of the Animals, and a list of the Families and Genera of Recent and Fossil Shells, by Agnes Catlow, author of 'Popular Field Botany,' (Longman and Co.) In the present edition the most recent researches and observations in this department of natural history are noticed, and the part relating to fossil genera of shells is entirely new. Dr. Philippi's 'Handbuch der Conchyliologie und Malacozoologie' is taken as the foundation of the general arrangement, instead of Lamarck's work, as in the former edition. The book is profusely illustrated with woodcuts, chiefly from drawings by Mr. Swainson and Mr. Sowerby. A glossary of terms adds to the usefulness of the volume as a popular manual.

A third edition is issued, with alterations and improvements, of Dr. Edwin Lee's book on *The Baths of France, Central Germany, and Switzerland* (Churchill). Of the German watering-places we have many and full accounts in English books, but the notices of French and Swiss baths are less frequent, and these are partially described in Dr. Lee's work. The numerous quotations, from foreign topographical and medical authors, render the work more valuable for reference or as a guide-book.

In the series of Arnold's School Classics, an edition of *The Works of Horace, with Introductions and Notes* (Rivingtons), abridged and adapted for school use, is based on the German work of Dr. Dübner. A few additional notes are taken from Mitscherlich, Doering, Orelli, Keightley, Riddle, Smith, and other writers, English and foreign. A prize essay on *Medical Missions*, by W. Burns Thomson (Johnstone and Hunter), was written for the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society, by whom a prize theme was proposed, as a method of

attracting the general attention of students to the excellent object of the Association. Mr. Thomson's essay presents a clear and satisfactory statement of the objects of such missions, with arguments and motives for their being earnestly and liberally supported and carried out.

A pamphlet on *Kossuth*, in six chapters (Hardwicke), is an abusive personal attack, intended probably to counteract the influence of the biographical memoir recently published in Bohn's Standard Library. The author is said on the title-page to be a Hungarian, but the provincial idioms and other marks in the composition lead us to doubt this. If a Hungarian has really supplied any materials for the work, he is one of whom his compatriots may feel ashamed. Whatever may be thought of the wisdom or policy of some of M. Kossuth's political measures, an enemy overshoots his mark when he describes him as "merely a demagogical clown, playing a truly pantomimical part in the great tragedy-comedy of European history."

*Suggestions for Reducing the Manning of the Navy to Half its Present Complement*; including other proposals for isolating the Engine-room in War Steamers, employing the Steam-power in Working the Guns, &c., by Molyneux Shuldham, Commander R.N. (Saunders and Otley), deserve the attention of naval authorities. The writer has studied carefully the application of steam-power to other uses in war-ships than their mere propulsion, and some of his suggestions commend themselves as practicable and useful. Great saving of men and of labour would be ensured, an object to be considered, both in case of difficulty in fully manning the navy, and in order to diminish the number of casualties in war from the large numbers now required in a ship. Some valuable suggestions are also thrown out as to the construction of steam gun-boats, and on coast defences.

#### LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Adams' (H. G.) *Cyclopædia of Poetical Quotations*, 6s. 6d.  
 Alister's (R.) *Belief in Special Providence*, 8vo, 3s.  
 Barrett's (A.) *Little Arthur's Latin Primer*, 12mo, cloth, 1s.  
 Beale (L. J.) on Health, &c., 8vo, sewed, 2s. 6d.  
 Burgess (H.) *Amateur Gardener*, 12mo, 5s.  
 Chalmers' *Select Works: Lectures on the Romans*, 2s. 6d.  
 Covent (The) and the Manse, 12mo, 1s. 6d.  
 Cooper's *Poems*, 12mo, 3s. 6d.  
 Dendy (W. C.) on the Scalp, 4to, 12s. 6d.  
 ———— *Book of the Nursery*, cloth, 2s. 6d.  
 Diprose's *Funny Book*, 1s. 6d.  
 Encyclopædia Britannica, Vol. 6, 8th edition, £1 4s.  
 Fen Leaves, 2nd series, crown 8vo, 2s. 6d.; 2 vols., 5s.  
 Fraser's *Map of Ireland*, 8s. 6d.  
 Hannay's *The Sand and the Shells*, post 8vo, sewed, 1s.  
 Hand Book of Ireland, by Fraser, 4th edition, 8vo, 10s. 6d.  
 ———— *Switzerland*, new edition, 7s. 6d.  
 Harvey (W.) on the Ear, 12mo, 2s. 6d.  
 Knox's (Dr.) *Fish and Fisheries in Scotland*, 1s.  
 Lectures on the Signs of the Times, 12mo, 3s.  
 Macanlay's (T. B.) *Essays*, 2 vols., 12mo, 8s.  
 McIntosh's *Lofy and Lowly*, 12mo, 1s. 6d.  
 Mayhew (E.) on Dogs, post 8vo, 5s.  
 Metcalf's (Lord) *Life*, by J. W. Kaye, 2 vols. 8vo, £1 16s.  
 Milligan's (J.) *Structure of English Language*, 12mo, 3s.  
 National Illustrated Library: *History of Russia*, V. 2, 2s. 6d.  
 Neale's (F. A.) *Evenings at Antioch*, post 8vo, 5s.  
 Neville's (E. C.) *Saxon Obscenities*, reduced to £2 2s.  
 Pride of Life, by Lady Scott, 2 vols. post 8vo, 15s.  
 Random Readings for the Rail, sewed, 1s. 6d.  
 Scott's (Sir W.) *Poetical Works*, 12mo, 3s. 6d.  
 Smith's *Chairman and Speaker's Guide*, new edit., 12mo, 1s.  
 Tanner's *Practice of Medicine*, 2nd edition, 32mo, 3s. 6d.  
 Willis' *Famous Persons*, &c., boards, 1s. 6d.; cloth, 2s. 6d.

#### NATIONAL EDUCATION.

We have refrained lately from any remarks on this important subject, from which public attention has been withdrawn for a time by more exciting topics. The failure of the attempt by the Government to carry a bill for Scotland, where the obstacles to a general education measure are far less than in other parts of the kingdom, was truly discouraging to the friends of the cause. We are rejoiced, however, to find that Lord Brougham has not yet given up the subject as hopeless, and we trust that the resolutions which he moved in the House of Lords at the close of the session were preparatory to his bringing in a bill when Parliament again meets. It would be indeed gratifying, if one who has de-

voted to the subject of popular education his best energies from earliest life, should at last be rewarded by having his name associated with some scheme which might harmonize the conflicting views of all parties in this intractable and difficult department of legislation. Meanwhile we give his series of resolutions, as an interesting document for purposes of reference, as it contains a concise and clear abstract of the chief statistical facts, and of the leading principles that must come under consideration in the future discussions in Parliament:—

"1. That the increase in the means of education for the people, which had begun a few years before the year 1818, when the first returns were made, and had proceeded steadily till the year 1833, when the next returns were made, has been continued since, although less rapidly as regards the number of schools and teachers, but with considerable improvement both in the constitution of the additional seminaries and in the quality of the instruction given.

"2. That the returns of 1818 give, as the number of day schools of all kinds, 19,230, attended by 674,883 scholars; of Sunday schools, 5,463, and Sunday school scholars, 425,533; the returns of 1833, 38,971 day schools, and 1,276,937 scholars, and 16,828 Sunday schools, and 1,548,890 scholars; the returns of 1851, 46,042 day schools, and 2,144,378 scholars, 23,514 Sunday schools, and 2,407,642 scholars.

"3. That the population having increased during these two periods from 11,642,683 to 14,386,415 and 17,927,609, the proportion of the day scholars to the population in 1818 was 1-17-25, of Sunday scholars 1-24-40; in 1833 of day scholars 1-11-27 of Sunday scholars 1-9-28; in 1851 of day scholars 1-8-36, of Sunday scholars 1-7-45; showing a more rapid increase, but more especially of Sunday scholars, in the first period than in the second, while the population has increased more rapidly during the second period, its increase being at the rate of 180,000 a-year during the first period, and 197,000 a-year during the second.

"4. That there is reason to believe that the returns of 1818 are less than the truth, that those of 1833 have considerably greater omissions, and that those of 1851 approach much nearer the truth, whence it may reasonably be inferred that the increase during the first 15 years was greater than the returns show—that the increase during the last 18 years was less than the returns show—and that the increase proceeded during the last period at a rate more diminishing than the returns show.

"5. That before the year 1833 the increase was owing to the active exertions and liberal contributions of the different classes of the community, especially of the upper and middle classes, whether of the established church or of the Dissenters, the clergy of both church and sects bearing a large share in those pious and useful labours.

"6. That in 1833 the plan was adopted which had been recommended by the Education Committee of the House of Commons in 1818, of assisting by grants and money in the planting of schools, but so as to furnish only the supplies which were required in the first instance, and to distribute those sums through the two school societies, the National and the British and Foreign.

"7. That the grants of money have since been largely increased, and that in 1839 a committee of the Privy Council being formed to superintend their distribution, for increasing the number of schools, for the improvement of the instruction given, it has further applied them to the employment of inspectors and the training of teachers.

"8. That of the poorer and working classes, assumed to be four-fifths of the population, the number of children between the ages of 3 and 15 are 3,600,000, and at the least require day schools for one-half as the number which may be expected to attend school, regard being had to the employment of a certain proportion in such labour as children can undergo; and that consequently schools for one-eighth of the working classes of the poor are the least that can be considered as required for the education of those classes.

"9. That the means of education provided are still deficient; because, of the 2,144,378 day scholars now taught at the schools of all kinds, not more than about 1,550,000 are taught at public day schools, the remaining 500,000 being taught at private schools, and being, as well as about 50,000 of those taught at endowed public schools, children of persons in the upper and middling classes, so that little more than 1,500,000 of the day scholars are the children of the poor, or of persons in the working classes; and thus there are only schools for such children in the proportion of 1-9-6 of the numbers of the classes to which they belong instead of  $\frac{1}{8}$ , leaving a deficiency of 300,000, which must increase by 20,000 yearly according to the annual increase of the population.

"10. That this deficiency is considerably greater in the large towns than in the other parts of the country, inasmuch as it amounts to 130,000 in the aggregate of the towns which have above 50,000 inhabitants, and is only 170,000 in the rest of the country; the schools in these great towns being only for 1-11-08 of the working classes, and in the rest of the country for 1-9-2 of these classes, deducting 50,000 taught at endowed schools.

"11. That the deficiency in the number of the teachers is still greater than in the number of scholars, inasmuch as eight out of the largest towns appear to have public day schools, with 208 scholars on an average, the average of all England and Wales being 94 to a school; that there are assistant and pupil teachers in many of these schools, and paid masters in others; but that there is the greatest advantage in increasing the number of teachers, this being one of the chief benefits of Sunday schools, while the plan formerly adopted in the new schools of instructing by monitors among the scholars themselves is now properly allowed to fall into disuse.

"12. That the education given at the greater number of the schools now established for the poorer classes of people is of a kind by no means sufficient for their instruction, being for the most part confined to reading, writing, and a little arithmetic; whereas, at no greater expense, and in the same time, children might easily be instructed in the elements of the more useful branches of knowledge, and thereby trained to sober, industrious habits.

"13. That the number of infant schools is still exceedingly deficient, and especially in those great towns where they are most needed for improving the morals of the people and preventing the commission of crimes.

"14. That, while it is expedient to do nothing which may relax the efforts of private beneficence in forming and supporting schools, or which may discourage the poorer classes of the people from contributing to the cost of educating their children, it is incumbent upon Parliament to aid in providing the actual means of instruction where these cannot otherwise be obtained for the people.

"15. That it is incumbent on Parliament to encourage in like manner the establishment of infant schools, especially in larger towns.

"16. That it is expedient to confer upon the town-councils of incorporated cities and boroughs the power of levying a rate for the establishment and support of schools under the authority of and in co-operation with the Education Committee of the Privy Council, care being taken as heretofore that the aid afforded shall only be given in cases of necessity, and so as to help and encourage, not displace, individual exertion.

"17. That the permission to begin and to continue the levying of the rate shall in every case depend upon the schools founded or aided by such rate being open to the children of all parents, upon religious instruction being given, and the Scriptures being read in them, but not used as a school-book, and upon allowing no compulsion either as to the attendance at religious instruction or at divine service in the case of children whose parents object thereto, and produce certificates of their attending other places of worship.

"18. That the indifference which has been found



of the parents in many places to obtain education for their children, and a reluctance to forego the advantages of their labour by withdrawing them from school, is mainly owing to the ignorance of their parents, and this can best be removed by the encouragement of a taste for reading, by the establishment of mechanics' institutions, apprentices' libraries and reading-rooms, and by the abolition of all taxes upon knowledge.

"19. That in towns there have been established upwards of 1200 of such institutions and reading-rooms, with above 100,000 members, but that by far the greater number of these members are persons in the upper and middle classes, a very small proportion only belonging to the working classes; but it has been found in some parts of the country, particularly in Cumberland, that when the whole management of the affairs of the institutions is left in the hands of the working men themselves, a very great proportion of the attending members belong to that class, and, both by frequenting the rooms and taking out the books to read, show their desire of profiting by the institution.

"20. That in every quarter—but more especially where there are no reading-rooms in the country districts—the great obstacle to diffusing useful knowledge among the people has been the newspaper stamp, which prevents papers containing local and other intelligence from being added to such works of instruction and entertainment as might at a low price be circulated among the working classes, and especially among the country people, along with that intelligence.

"21. That the funds given by charitable and public-spirited individuals and bodies corporate for promoting education are of a very large amount—probably when the property is improved and the abuses in its management are corrected, not less than 500,000*l.* a year; and that it is expedient to give to the board formed under the Charitable Trusts Act of 1853 such additional powers as may better enable them, with the assent of trustees and special visitors (if any), to apply portions of the funds now lying useless to the education and improvement of the people."

#### TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

THE results of the foreign copyright decision in the House of Lords are becoming in various ways conspicuous. In regard to the foreign music published in this country, on which the question latterly arose, a reduction of price by one half is announced. Messrs. Boosey and Sons have issued a catalogue of the principal works affected by the decision, including some of the most popular operas of the day. In general literature, the activity of republishers is chiefly shown in regard to American books. Mrs. Stowe's 'Sunny Memories' had recently appeared in two formidable volumes, Messrs. Low and Co. counting on the absence of rival editions, as sole possessors of the copyright in England. As soon as it was known that the exclusive property could not be validly held, the publishers had to announce an edition at eightpence, with sixty illustrations, to meet the rivalry of Messrs. Routledge, who announced a cheap edition of the book. Other publishers have since printed still cheaper copies, and we observe this week an issue commenced, to be finished, we can scarcely say completed, in six penny numbers. Of more important American works, such as those of Prescott and Bancroft, the removal of the restrictions on reprinting involves more serious injury to the publishers who had made arrangements with the authors. Mr. Bentley is the chief holder of the now valueless English copyright of this higher class of American literature. In cases where direct pecuniary transactions with foreign writers have been concluded, we hope that there is enough of honourable feeling among English publishers to lead to some arrangements being made as to other reprints of the same work. We have had pleasure from time to time in recording instances of liberal and handsome conduct on the part of London publishers to American authors whose unprotected works had been made use

of. We hope that some honourable reserve will now be shown in cases where not only an author's work is pirated, but where brother publishers have invested capital in ignorance of the exact state of the law. We were pleased to notice in the advertisement of one reprint lately, a statement that it was "by permission" of the first English publisher. Meanwhile great reduction of price is announced in some works hitherto supposed to be protected, and to this extent the public receives a present benefit. We hope that all this agitation will aid in impressing on American legislators the propriety of having an international copyright treaty, such as exists, and works well, between England and France. If American writers of note were more numerous, there would be instant readiness to come to an arrangement; but the evil is, that the development of native talent and industry is checked by the present system, and the desire for a change thereby postponed. Whatever may be the feeling among the aristocracy of honourable and learned men in the United States, we can scarcely yet expect the bulk of their enterprising publishers and voracious readers to forego the privilege of freely using all our English literature for the sake of affording protection to five or six of their own popular writers. Yet we trust that the enlightened and liberal American statesmen, who have already devoted much attention to this subject, may have influence to induce their countrymen to assent to a treaty for a limited number of years.

The Educational Exhibition at St. Martin's Hall, Long Acre, closes at the end of this month, and a very general desire has been felt by those interested in the subject, to have some such museum permanently established. Although the present collection of models, maps, books, and other implements and tools of intellectual husbandry, has proved little attractive to the general public, it has been visited by many who are engaged in the practical business of tuition, and has afforded to them much pleasure and instruction. We think it would be highly useful to have a permanent collection of the kind, where new specimens of any of the material helps to education might be deposited, and where teachers and parents might resort for obtaining information as to the best systems of modern instruction. A good suggestion has also been made to the effect that a copy of every new work connected with educational subjects should be deposited in a library attached to the museum. A correspondent of the *Times* mentions that even among the small number of books exhibited at St. Martin's Hall he found several of which he had not before heard, and which he would henceforth introduce in the school of which he is the principal. A great variety of lectures have been delivered during the month, but few of them on subjects of general interest, though appropriate to a professional audience. An exception occurred in the case of Cardinal Wiseman, who, in his review of the popular literature of England, after showing that much of it was of a pernicious and trifling character, suggested that some public censorship should be established, as is the case in France. The daily press has already with becoming spirit exposed the effrontery of this proposal. The advantages of a free press, restrained only by the power of public opinion, and by the laws if outraging personal or social rights, are too well understood in England to admit of their being subjected to an official censorship, as the Cardinal proposes. The people will find good and wholesome reading if provided for them through the ordinary channels of publication, and the only interference now expected from Government is relief from any fiscal burdens which bear heavily on the production or the circulation of cheap literature.

The British Archaeological Association have this week been holding their annual congress, the meeting being this year at Chepstow, a favourable spot from which to make excursions. Tintern Abbey, Raglan Castle, Newport Castle, Llandaff Cathedral, are among the historical sites which have been visited, while many beautiful and pic-

turesque localities have delighted the lovers of natural scenery. In the absence of Mr. Bernal, from illness, the chair was taken, at the opening meeting, on Monday, by Sir F. Durrant, and Mr. Pettigrew read an introductory address, presenting a review of the past history and proceedings of the Association, with brief notices of the special objects of interest in the district where they had now assembled. On Monday afternoon Chepstow Castle was inspected. In the evening Mr. Wakeham read a very interesting paper, or rather delivered an address from notes, 'On Chepstow Castle, Priory, Town, and Walls.' On Tuesday the Society visited Moyné's Court, an old house near Chepstow, and St. Pierre Park and the adjoining church. Portskewett church, Caldicott castle, and Magor church were visited the same day, the excursion altogether having extended to a circuit of about twenty-four miles. A paper by Mr. Bailey was read in the evening, 'On Chepstow Church,' the modern alterations in which were strongly condemned by the members of the Society. On Wednesday Tintern Abbey and the Wyndcliff were visited, and on Thursday Caerleon and Llandaff, where the members were received by the Dean of Llandaff, who has taken an active interest in the whole of the proceedings of the Chepstow meeting. At the Wednesday evening meeting a paper was contributed by the Rev. Beale Poste, 'On the Territories of King Vortigern.'

A fine engraving in the mixed style has been executed by Mr. George Raphael Ward, from Herbert's half-length portrait of Cardinal Wiseman, belonging to St. Mary's College, Oscott. The artist has given, with fidelity and spirit, the peculiar features of this distinguished ecclesiastic, whose varied learning and intellectual ability command respect, whatever may be thought of other elements of his character, the delineation of some of which are not unexpressed in this portrait. The details of the engraving are carefully executed, and the work is highly creditable to the artist.

The annual public meeting of the French Academy of Inscriptions et Belles Lettres, (part of the Institute) was held at Paris last week. The principal portion of the business consisted in the reading of a very long and very eulogistic notice of the two Burnoufs, father and son—the former of whom was noted as an excellent classical scholar, and as the author of a Greek grammar adopted generally in French schools, and of esteemed translations of Sallust and Tacitus; the latter as an admirable orientalist, and as the author of an 'Introduction to the History of Buddhism,' and of sundry translations from the Asiatic tongues. The paper was written by M. Naudet. The Academy afterwards distributed numerous medals to the authors of meritorious works published during the year. One of the principal was accorded to the Abbé Cochet—whose archaeological labours have been repeatedly noticed in this journal—for his 'Notices on the Roman and Frank Cemeteries explored in Normandy,' and one also of the principal class to M. Weiss, for his 'History of French Protestant Refugees since the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes,'—a work highly esteemed in England. The Numismatic prize founded by M. de Hauteroche was not awarded. Last year, if we remember rightly, it was carried off by an Englishman.

A marvellous discovery is pompously announced by one of the Paris newspapers—nothing less than the power of producing instantaneously copies of engravings, lithographs, and printed pages, with such minute exactitude that the most searching investigation, even by a microscope, cannot distinguish them from the originals. The *modus operandi* is not described, and is, in fact, it is stated, kept a profound secret by the inventor, who is a M. Boyer, of Nîmes: but it seems to resemble the operation of lithography. As a specimen of his art, M. Boyer is represented to have produced in less than a quarter of an hour, a reproduction of a sheet, containing, 1, a page of a Latin book, published in 1625; 2, a design from the 'Illustrated London News,' of April, 1854; 3, a page from a recently printed biography; 4, a page of

a book printed in 1503; 5, an engraving of the façade of a palace; 6, a specimen of gothic characters. All these were, it is alleged, imitated with such extraordinary minuteness, that neither the eye nor the microscope could detect the difference of a letter, a line, or a spot between them and the originals. A great number of copies can, we are told, be struck off from the stone employed, and the expense is alleged to be extremely small, 50 per cent. at least for printed works, and more for engravings. If there be no exaggeration in what is stated, M. Boyer's discovery will effect an extraordinary revolution in the printing and engraving professions: with it neither print nor book can possibly be protected from piracy. It is not denied that he has already produced fac-similes of rare old engravings and books.

Madame George Sand's 'History of her Life' is about to be published in one of the principal Paris newspapers. It is to fill altogether five volumes. It is of course expected with the liveliest interest, and if it imitate the frankness of Rousseau's 'Confessions,' will, from the genius and the adventurous career of the authoress, be one of the most extraordinary works in existence. The newspaper proprietors esteem its popularity so highly that they have paid Madame Sand 4000*l.* for the copyright.

#### PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

**STATISTICAL.—June 19th.**—The Right Hon. Holt Mackenzie, V.-P., in the chair. A paper was read 'On our Commerce with Russia in Peace and in War,' by J. T. Danson, Esq. The object of the author was to indicate, from statistical data, the probable effect of the present war upon our commerce with Russia. To this end the paper was divided into four parts. The first part, being merely preliminary, embraced a description of the area and population of Russia in Europe, and showed that the artificial system of Peter the Great, as continued by his successors during the last century and a half, had not materially altered the natural constitution of the Russian empire—that St. Petersburg, though by this system made the capital city and chief port of the empire, did not as yet possess that character apart from the compulsion exercised by the Government—that the central provinces around Moscow were by much the most thickly peopled—and that the natural centres of production and consumption were still found at Moscow and Warsaw. The population of the nine provinces on the Baltic, from Finland to Poland inclusive, was about 12,400,000, and was distributed in proportions varying in density southward, from 17 persons per English square mile in Finland, to 103 per square mile in Poland. The five Black Sea provinces, from Bessarabia to the country of the Don Cossacks, had a population of about 4,150,000, the average number being about 26 per square mile, and Bessarabia being by much the most populous. The ten central provinces around Moscow had a population of about 14,000,000, giving an average of about 80 persons to the square mile. The artificial character of St. Petersburg, as a city, was attested by the census, which, in a population of nearly 500,000, showed (exclusive of military and foreigners) only about 16 females to 35 males, children included. The second part of the paper described the commerce of Russia, marking its characteristic features by comparison with that of England and France. The 28,000,000 of the British people annually exported produce to the value of about 90,000,000*l.* sterling—the 35,000,000 of the French exported to the value of about 50,000,000*l.*—and the 67,000,000 of European Russia exported to the value of about 14,000,000*l.* Russia exported raw produce almost exclusively, consisting chiefly of grain, tallow, flax, linseed, hemp, wool, timber, and bristles; the three items first named commonly exceeded in value all the rest. The imports consisted chiefly of the produce of more southern and of tropical countries, of manufactures, and of raw materials, and machinery for some cotton and other factories, maintained in the central districts, under the cover of high protective duties. Sugar, coffee, tobacco, wine, and fruit, figured largely in the first class.

Silk, woollen, and cotton goods, with some hardware and jewellery, in the second. And raw cotton and yarn, with silk, wool, machinery, and dye-stuffs, with a considerable quantity of salt (scarce in Russia), completed the list of principal articles. Not more than one-sixth of the shipping frequenting Russian ports was owned by Russian subjects: the trade of the chief ports was almost exclusively in the hands of resident foreign merchants, and the capital employed in carrying it on was foreign in a still larger proportion, England taking the lead alike in supplying mercantile skill, capital, and shipping. The Russian tariff was highly protective, and had the effect of keeping the Russian people, excepting the noble class, ignorant of most of the comforts and luxuries enjoyed by the inhabitants of other parts of Europe of similar productive power. The flatness of the country, however, with the prevalence of snow during some months of every year, over the greater part of its surface, made land travelling comparatively cheap and rapid; and the rivers intersecting the country in all directions, improved by numerous canals, gave a very complete system of water communication, and thus added to the facilities of interior commerce. The third part of the paper was devoted to the commerce between Russia and the United Kingdom, and showed that the Russian people were not only very small consumers of British produce, but had for some years been reducing their demand for it. We took from them by far the larger share of all they exported, and they took from us cotton, raw and in yarn, wool, dye-stuffs, machinery, and coal, with salt, sugar, and drugs, and some woven fabrics and furs; the whole being of little more than half the value of the Russian produce they sent to this country. The balance was settled by Russian imports from France and elsewhere, paid for in drafts upon London. About two-thirds in value of the imports of Russia from this country consisted, in fact, of the materials for manufacturing, in Russia, goods that we could supply to the Russian consumers at a much less cost. The nobles, however, very generally disclaimed the produce of the native looms. Six of the articles we imported from Russia we had hitherto received thence in quantities forming a very considerable proportion of our total supply for the year. These were grain, hemp, flax, tallow, bristles, and linseed. Taking the trade of the 14 years, 1840-53, as a test, the author showed that we were indebted to Russia for about 14 per cent. of our total imports of grain—that in the first seven years of this period we were so indebted for about 72 per cent., and in the latter seven for about 62 per cent. of our supply of hemp, and that about two-thirds of our supply of imported flax had come thence; but that our supplies of grain, hemp, and tallow had been steadily increasing from other quarters more rapidly than from Russia, that we had a home supply of flax and linseed, and that a total deprivation of the supplies of Russia would most seriously affect us in the comparatively trifling article of bristles. The fourth part of the paper was on the probable effect of the war, and went far to dispel any fears arising out of the extent of our dependence upon Russia for raw materials. A careful review of the sources and channels of the interior commerce of Russia led directly to the conclusion that, excepting grain and seeds, (for neither of which we were largely dependent upon Russia,) the most natural exit for the greater part of the trade was through East Prussia, by the ports of Dantzic, Elbing, Königsburg, and Memel; and that these ports were equally convenient for the imports, excepting only such part of them as went to supply the artificial city at the head of the Gulf of Finland. Hence that, so long as Prussia remained neutral, the only effect would probably be a diversion of the trade from the forced routes through St. Petersburg and Riga to its more natural ways further south, damaging, by reversal, the despotic system of the government, and somewhat harassing by the change all who were immediately dependent upon the interior trade, but not materially injuring the bulk of the population, and much increasing the probability of their being soon brought into freer communication with the more

civilized nations of Europe. A paper was then read, entitled 'The Colony of Victoria,' by G. M. Bell, Esq. The author commenced by giving a geographical description of Australia. It extended upwards of 5000 miles in average length from east to west, and was about 3200 miles in width. Captain Dampier had drawn a most repulsive picture of the natives. The British Government founded a colony of some 800 convicts at Port Jackson in 1778, and had called the settlement Sydney cove: hence the origin of the important capital of that name. On the departure of the convicts, Lord Sydney exclaimed, 'There goes the foundation of a mighty empire!' The excellence of the climate and the natural resources of the country had gradually attracted settlers from all parts of the United Kingdom. The colony of Victoria, more familiarly known as Port Phillip, had exhibited a degree of progressive prosperity unparalleled by any colony in ancient or modern times. An import trade in live stock in 1835 had become an export trade in 1838. The gold discoveries in 1851 had given a great impulse to the prosperity of the colony, and had so enhanced the value of land, that an allotment of the value of 50*l.* in 1837, had risen in 1851 to the value of 4000*l.*, and in 1853 had actually realized 15,000*l.* The quantity of crown land sold in the colony of Victoria in 1852 was 258,144 acres, and the purchase money upwards of 701,000*l.* The population of the colony in 1841 was little more than 11,000; in 1851, on its separation from Sydney, it had reached 80,000; and in 1852 had risen to 148,627, of whom 98,313 were males, and 50,314 were females. Previous to the discovery of the gold fields, the staple commodity of the colony was wool. In 1852 the quantity exported was upwards of 20,000,000 lbs. weight, valued at a little over 1,000,000*l.* The importance of the trade might be judged of by the fact that Australian wool formed upwards of one half of the whole quantity imported into Great Britain. The live stock in the colony in 1852 was upwards of 7,000,000, including sheep. Another important article of export was tallow. The great increase in the flocks had depreciated the price of a sheep to 2*s.* 6*d.*, 1*s.*, and even to 7*d.* a head: hence the origin of the practice of boiling down the carcasses for the sake of the tallow. In 1850, the quantity of tallow exported was 4489 tons; but the rapid increase of population since the gold discoveries had led to a greater demand for animal food, and consequently to a gradual falling off in the export of this commodity. The quantity of gold exported from Victoria from August 1851 to April 1852, was 563,471 ounces; and it had been estimated that the quantity produced up to the end of 1852 was 4,891,000 ounces. The total produce for 1853 was 3,090,342 ounces; which, valued at 7*s.* per ounce, would give 11,588,782*l.* Of this, 9,365,448*l.* had been exported to the mother country. The banks in Victoria had profited largely by the discovery of the gold fields. There were 30,000 depositors, possessing in the aggregate 8,000,000*l.* sterling. The number of immigrants in 1852 was 94,664. The imports in 1852 were nearly four times greater than in 1851, and the exports nearly seven times greater. The number of ships entered inwards was 1657, with a tonnage of 408,216; and the number cleared outwards was 1475, with a tonnage of 350,296. The amount of revenue paid into the Colonial Treasury in the year ended June 1853 was 2,451,236*l.*, being an increase upon the preceding year of 1,736,556*l.* In regard to public worship there was accommodation for only 16,000, or about one-tenth of the population. Two other papers were read, entitled as follows:—'A Decimal System of Coinage for the United Kingdom,' by F. J. Minasi, Esq., and 'Statistics of the United States of America,' by T. A. Welton, Esq.

#### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Marlenberg, near Boppard, Aug. 16th.

I REMEMBER mentioning in a previous letter my having stopped for a few hours in this delightful place; I have now been induced to return for some weeks, and rather than selfishly monopolise all the



enjoyment, I will endeavour to describe the place, in the hope that others may be induced to follow my example, and spend their few weeks' hard earned holidays in one of the most health-giving spots in the whole course of old Father Rhine. Marienberg was an old convent, and in the lapse of time was turned into a factory for cotton or silk, I forget which, then into a girls' school, and, finally, in 1839, by Dr. Schmitz, into a cold-water cure establishment. The building, which is one of the most spacious and massive on the Rhine, was erected in 1123 by the knights and burghers of the neighbouring town of Boppard. It has since then been almost totally destroyed by fire, and rebuilt, and a pretty church, the belfry of which only remains, has disappeared. The present pile of buildings consist of the old cloisters, surrounded by well-furnished and neatly fitted-up rooms for the patients, a spacious wing four stories high exclusively devoted to ladies, and another smaller wing. The cloisters afford a cool and shady walk in summer, or shelter from rain and sharp wind in winter, and the effect of these long and gloomy-looking passages at night, dimly lighted up by lamps hung at considerable distances from each other, is very solemn and ghost-like; monuments of long departed abbesses and noble sisters, and half-effaced frescoes of ascensions and martyrdoms, line the walls, and the never ceasing splash of falling water sounds solemnly through the echoing halls. On every story wide, lofty, and seemingly interminable passages lead from one end of the house to the other, conducting either to some balcony commanding splendid prospects of the Rhine, or to windows looking out on cultivated valleys or richly wooded hills, or terminating in a flight of stone steps leading either up or down to some other passage equally wide and airy, and conducting you perhaps to the vine-covered alleys and arbours in the garden, or to the fountain throwing up its lofty jet of sparkling water into the cool night air. I must say that in all my wanderings I have never been in any place in which I could pass a couple of summer months with greater pleasure or more advantage to health than in this old Rheinish convent. Mr. Kampmann, its present owner, is the successor of the late Dr. Schmitz, and it is his pride not only to retain its character as the best conducted cold-water cure establishment on the Continent, but also to make it an agreeable residence for those who do not require or do not admire the hydropathic system. He has fitted up rooms for from 120 to 150 people, with suitable accommodation for servants, and each room is furnished to perform the double duty of bed-room and sitting-room. A physician of reputation and skill resides in the house, gives his advice (gratis) to all patients, regulates the baths, and presides at the table, at which no dish is allowed to appear without his sanction. Every person in the house has the advantages of medical attendance, the use of all the baths, service both in his own room and in the baths, and his board and lodging, included in the weekly terms, which vary from thirty shillings, the lowest price, to forty-five shillings, the highest; the difference being merely in the size and quality of the room. Those who are not under the treatment can have whatever they choose to eat and drink in their own rooms, but those who are patients must conform strictly to regimen. At one o'clock they all meet at dinner in a magnificent room, the old refectory. There is a spacious news-room, with English, French, Dutch, and German papers, a handsome billiard room, a music and conversation room for the ladies, a curious old Catholic chapel with antique tombstones, and whenever possible the service of the Church of England on Sundays. There are about ten plunge baths, lined with white porcelain tiles, two of which are four feet deep by eight feet wide, and twelve feet long, in which one can comfortably swim; douches which would almost fell an ox, wave baths strong enough to turn a mill, and shower baths larger than any I had ever seen. Certainly, whether it be the pure air, the wholesome food, or the water-cure itself, I cannot take upon me to say, but I never saw such healthy, happy, or contented looking invalids in my life, and were it not for their own tales of pains and aches, I should have

said that they had come merely to enjoy themselves, not to cast away those "ills which flesh is heir to." The hills from behind the convent command one of the most beautiful and striking views I have ever seen; from all sides spring beautiful valleys clothed with the richest verdure, and intersecting the numerous hills which wall in the rapidly flowing rain; the heights themselves are in some places covered with young oak trees, or laboriously cultivated vineyards. Boppard lies on the left bank of the Rhine, enclosed in its massive old Roman walls, and ornamented with numerous churches and shattered towers; in the distance the summits of the hills are crowned by the two old castles of the Brothers, the famous old fortress of Marksburg, the castle of Schöneck, the feudal mansion of Jacobsburg, and the old chapel on the Kreuzberg, whose clear bell sounds forth at midday and Ave Maria, warning the poor toiling peasant of his hour of repose, of refreshment, and of prayer, and whose arduous ascent is guarded on each side by shrines and stations embellished with hideous pictures of saints and martyrdoms. Every field is dotted with fruit trees; the wide flat plains above the Rhine are covered with "yellow fields of ripening grain," and the still life is ever and anon interrupted by the descent of a huge raft freighted from the "Black Forest," with its busy and noisy crew, or an unwieldy Dutch craft leisurely dropping down the stream, or a puffing and splashing steamer, with its long train of black smoke, reminding us of home and toil. In the convent of Marienberg I have been most agreeably surprised in meeting intelligent men of almost all nations and from almost all parts of the world; but this harbour of refuge seems to me to lie too near the busy throng, too much on the great European thoroughfare, to be much known to my own countrymen. To all those who can escape for a short period from the busy turmoils of the great world, and can enjoy peace, rest, and a beautiful country, I recommend to follow my example, and spend their holidays in Marienberg, near Boppard.

#### VARIETIES.

**Fossil Specimen.**—An interesting discovery has been made at South Shields of remains of the extinct Irish elk, in a brick-yard belonging to Messrs. R. W. Swinburne and Co., the extensive glass manufacturers of that place. The surface consisted of the ordinary soil of the district two feet thick. Immediately beneath the surface lay a seam of clay twelve feet thick, which has been used for the manufacture of bricks for house-building. Below this seam of clay was found a stratum of dry peat, somewhat compressed, two feet thick, in which were found the fossil remains of the Irish elk. These were carefully collected and forwarded to Professor Hawkins, by whom the following communication has been addressed to Mr. Swinburne:

"The Crystal Palace Company,  
Geological Restorations."

"SIR,—In the name of the Directors of the Crystal Palace Company, I beg to return you thanks for the interesting fossil specimens, fragments of the bones and antlers of Cervus Magaceros, or extinct Irish Elk, which you have presented to my department. As it is my intention to insert characteristic fossils in the sectional illustrations of strata in immediate connexion with my restorations of the extinct animals, any other specimens which either yourself or friends may have the opportunity of presenting will be very acceptable, if accompanied by so exact and well verified a description of the locality and rock they were imbedded in, which in this instance was so intelligently written as greatly to enhance the value of your present.—I have the honour to be, &c."

"B. WATERHOUSE HAWKINS."

**Webster's Correspondence.**—Arrangements are now in progress for the publication of the correspondence of the late Daniel Webster, in two volumes, uniform with Little and Brown's edition of Mr. Webster's speeches, under the editorial supervision of his son, Mr. Fletcher Webster. This correspondence will possess more than

ordinary interest and value. Among the correspondents of Mr. Webster were most of the distinguished public men of the last half century, including Madison, Marshall, Wirt, Clay, and Story. Among the papers is an account of Mr. Webster's difficulty, which created some sensation many years ago, with the celebrated John Randolph, of Roanoke. They were both members of the House of Representatives at the same time. The letters, as we understand, will probably be arranged (subject to such changes as the editor may see fit hereafter to adopt,) under the four heads of Political, Professional, Social, and Domestic. Under the first head would be included, among others, certain unpublished papers on international affairs, as well as letters on the domestic politics and parties of Mr. Webster's time. The third head would cover such letters as we have specimens of in his notes to his New-Hampshire steward, John Taylor, Seth Weston, Porter Wright, and to his friends generally. The domestic would embrace the letters addressed to the members of his family.—*Boston Post, U.S.*

**Manufacture of Sugar in France.**—The quantity of sugar made from beet-root, to the end of the fourth month of the season, February, was 73,987,419 kilogrammes, being very nearly equal to the entire season of September 1852 to September 1853. No branch of commerce in France has been so successful as the fabrication of sugar from beet-root. The original discovery of the process was due to M. Thiery, a common clerk in the office of the prefect of Lille, and who shortly after became Director of the first beet-root sugar factory erected in France at Passy, and who, as a reward for his valuable invention, received from the Minister of the Interior, in the year 1810, the sum of three hundred francs.—*Brussels Herald.*

**Belfry at Ghent.**—Last Monday the famous dragon which belongs to the Belfry, at Ghent was replaced on its pivot. Since 1839 this ancient relic of the town of Ghent has been down for the purpose of being repaired and re-gilded. The burgomaster and all the civic authorities were present at the ceremony. It has been in the possession of the town since the thirteenth century. Baudouin the Ninth, after the taking of Constantinople in 1204, removed it from the tower of Saint Sophia, and presented it to the inhabitants of Ghent in reward for their bravery. Since that time it has been several times taken down for repairs, particularly in the years 1445, 1543, and 1771.

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20	1 19	2 3	6	30	2 7	3 1	4
21	1 19	2 3	6	31	2 7	3 1	4
22	1 19	2 3	6	32	2 7	3 1	4
23	1 19	2 3	6	33	2 7	3 1	4
24	1 19	2 3	6	34	2 7	3 1	4
25	1 19	2 3	6	35	2 7	3 1	4
26	1 19	2 3	6	36	2 7	3 1	4
27	1 19	2 3	6	37	2 7	3 1	4
28	1 19	2 3	6	38	2 7	3 1	4
29	1 19	2 3	6	39	2 7	3 1	4
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The Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on the 30th May, 1854, when a Report of the business for the last year was presented, exhibiting a statement of most satisfactory progress. It appeared that the Assurances in 1853 considerably exceeded those effected in any previous year; the number of Policies issued being more than 460, and the annual income thereon being upwards of £7500. It also appeared that, except in 1849, when the visitation of the cholera took place, the claims arising from deaths were, in every year, much below their estimated amount.

The Members present at the Meeting were fully satisfied with the Report, and resolved unanimously that a Reduction of 3 1/4 per Cent. should be made in the current year's Premium, payable by all Policy-holders so entitled to participate in the Profits.

Credit is allowed for half the Annual Premiums for the first five years.

The following Table exemplifies the effect of the present reduction:

Age when Assured.	Amount Assured.	Annual Premium originally paid.	Allowance of 3 1/4 per Cent.	Annual Premium now payable.
20	£ 1000	20 17 6	6 11 6	14 6 0
25	1000	25 13 4	8 1 6	17 11 8
30	1000	33 14 10	10 13 8	23 4 8
35	1000	43 19 8	15 7 8	33 9 0
40	1000	75 17 6	23 10 0	51 19 6

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## UNITED KINGDOM LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

COMPANY, 8, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London.

The FOURTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company—being in the twenty-first year of its existence—was held at the Head Office, No. 8, Waterloo Place, Pall Mall, London, on Friday, July 15, 1854.

CHARLES GRAHAM, Esq., F.S.A., in the Chair.

Statements of accounts from the formation of the Company down to the 31st December last, were laid before the meeting, from which the following is abstracted:  
 That during the year ending 31st December, 1853, 418 new policies have been issued, assuring £251,188, and yielding, in annual premiums, a sum of £13,053 4s. 5d.  
 That the yearly income comprised £123,000.  
 That the property of the Company, as at 31st December last, amounts to £483,598 10s. 11d.  
 That the sum assured by each policy from the commencement averages £734 18s.  
 That 50 policies on 67 lives have become claims in 1853, on which £6,373 6s. 4d. has been paid; and  
 That since the Company commenced business in 1831, 8,793 policies have been issued in all, of which 3,753 have lapsed, surrendered, or become claims.

By order of the Board, PATRICK MACINTYRE, Secy.

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Age	25	30	35	40	45	50
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Tables of increasing Rates have been formed upon a plan peculiar to this Company, from which the following is an extract.

Premium to Insure £100 at death.

Age	First Year.	Second Year.	Third Year.	Fourth Year.	Fifth Year.	Remainder of Life.
20	0 18 2	0 19 2	1 0 3	1 1 5	1 2 8	1 18 2
25	1 3 1	1 5 2	1 6 8	1 7 1	1 8 1	1 10 5
30	1 11 10	1 13 9	1 15 10	1 18 1	2 0 6	3 8 3

Specimen of the Bonuses added to Policies to 1851, to which will be added a prospective Bonus of one per cent. per annum on the sum insured and previously declared Bonuses, in the event of death before December, 1852, and in which prospective Bonus all new Insurers on the Profit scale will participate.

Date of Policy.	Sum Insured.	Bonuses.	Amount.
1835	5000	19 2 4	692 2 4
1845	2000	7 7 9	270 9 9
1848	2000	10 8 2	434 2 4

Prospectuses, with Tables of Rates, and full particulars, may be obtained of the Secretary, 4, New Bank Buildings, London, or from any of the Agents of the Company.

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